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GST INCLUSIVE

A MIND BLOWING START TO THE WORLD CUP



By Mark Stavroulakis

It isn't a World Cup without any surprises and that surely was the case in the opening match between World Cup Champions France and African minnows Senegal.

Papa Bouba Diop, a name not many people knew before the World Cup tournament grabbed worldwide headlines for scoring Senegal's only goal that gifted his team a stunning one-nil victory over the French.

Mass hysteria was the scene back in Senegal as millions of Senegalese gathered in the main streets parading their historical win over France. So much so, the country itself declared it a Public Holiday and that was only the start of some tremendous football.

Australia's conquerors Uruguay had their work cut out in their opening game after going down two-one against

Denmark.

AC Milan bound Jon Dahl Tomasson was the hero bagging a double in his team's well deserved win.

Group B saw favorites Spain cruise to a three-one win over the smallest country currently competing in the World Cup, Slovenia. It was Spain's first opening game victory in 52 years with goals from Raul, Valeron and Hierro.

Meanwhile South Africa came from two goals down to earn a vital draw against an aggressive Paraguay outfit.

Manchester United's Quinton Fortune was Bafana Bafana's hero as he scored from the spot in the 91st minute to claim a valuable point for the South Africans.

Group E was probably the most entertaining group of the first week with Germany smashing Saudi Arabia for eight in their opening match in Sapporo.

Miroslav Klose was the hero for the Germans as he secured a well-deserved hat trick, which surely sent a message to all participants in the World Cup — Germany mean business.

In the other match in Group E, Mick McCarthy's men fought valiantly against a robust Cameroon side with the game ending at one-a-piece.

Roy Keane's replacement, Matt Holland was the Irish hero scoring a scorching pile driver from 25 metres out to cancel Patrick Mboma's 39th minute goal.

Finally, Group F (known as the Group of Death) finished up proceedings as World Cup favorites Argentina put on a fine display to defeat the always-tricky Nigerians one-nil.

'Batigol' aka Gabriel Batistuta scored his 56th goal in 76 appearances, and gifted his side three valuable points. Lastly, the majority of pubs and bars across Australia

were packed to the brim to watch England earn a one-all draw with Sweden.

Resilient defender Sol Campbell scored a brilliant header in the 24th minute, however Sven Goran Ericsson's men couldn't stop a 20-metre thunderbolt by Niclas Alexandersson in the 59th minute to end the match with a draw.

With so much happening in the space of 4 days, the World is set for an even bigger week with the rest of the groups playing their matches.

Football is finally getting the recognition it deserves in this country, how it would have been had Australia qualified?

FULL WORLD CUP REPORTS
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AUSSIES ABROAD

BY BINESH MUDALIAR

Several members of the 'Aussies Abroad' subset took aim and fired verbal shots in the past week. Judging by the widespread media coverage of their quotes, TONY VIDMAR, KEVIN MUSCAT and RAUL BLANCO all hit their target.

Socceroo defender TONY VIDMAR let fly at Glasgow Rangers' manager, Alex McLeish, stating that the Gers gaffer had stabbed him in the back by not offering him a new deal at Ibrox. The following are some excerpts from Vidmar's tirade.

"Earlier in the season Alex McLeish told me he wanted me to stay and we were in the ini-

do with Wolves' boss Dave Jones' dim view of Muzzy's disciplinary record. Muscat told Glasgow's *Daily Record* newspaper, "I'd grown stale and a bit complacent after five good years with Wolves and I needed a fresh challenge...that's why I left."

"The only thing I've won in football was promotion from the English first division with Crystal Palace and I'm hungry for a lot more than that before I retire."

Sydney 2000 boss RAUL BLANCO had a chat to John Taylor of the *Daily Telegraph* prior to Friday's WC opening ceremony and made his thoughts known of the ANTE SERIC and JOE SIMUNIC 'defection' to Croatia. On

Seric, the new Marconi Stallions coach said, "I still recall Ante's family saying four years ago that their son was deadly serious about wearing the Australian shirt and nothing else."

"The next thing you know he's lining up for Croatia against the Socceroos in a friendly in Zagreb. It was an incredible surprise to me after what had been said."

Blanco also told his reasons of why he did not select Joe Simunic for the Olympics. "I made a special trip to

Hamburg to talk to him but he could never give me a definite answer. He'd had his share of injuries and, in the end, I didn't pick him."

At ABSW's plush new offices, there's a folder that we keep at the bottom of the trash, labelled "Who Cares?"

Here's a story from that folder. Jonathon Cook interviewed IVAN ERGIC last week for the *West Australian* and Ergic said that he is a required player at Juventus for next season but may be loaned out again to Swiss club FC Basel. Former Perth Glory star Ergic has rejected playing for the Socceroos in favour of his native Yugoslavia. Like I say,

"Who cares about Ivan Ergic?"

★★★★

An update on the purge of Aussies by West Ham United. 2000 Olympian HAYDEN FOXE has signed a three-year deal with Harry Redknapp's Portsmouth. Foxey,

-Paul O'Grady (DEF) & Jim Bakis (MID) of Tampines Rovers
-Aleksander Duric (FWD), Walter Ardone (MID) & Nebojsa Vukosavljevic (FWD) of Geylang United

-Anthony Carbone (MID), Simon Harland (FWD) & James



Hayden Foxe: New Pompey defender.

who cost Pompey £400,000, told the official Portsmouth website, "It was a good time for me to move clubs, I felt my career was on hold at West Ham and it was frustrating not to get first team football so it was a natural thing to start looking elsewhere. Once I'd spoken to Portsmouth and Harry I was in no doubt that this was the right club for me. I don't see it as a step down, I see it as a great challenge, to come in and play and make a major impact."

Meantime, midfielder MICHAEL FERRANTE has been linked with Oldham Athletic following his release from the Hammers. Oldham Athletic Teamtalk claim the Ferrante has received offers from NSL clubs but prefers to remain in England.

★★★★

18 year-old South Australian midfielder RUSSELL WALLER has been offered a contract for the 2002/2003 season with Nationwide League club Darlington. Waller, who was signed from SA club Enfield City in November 2001, impressed in Darlington's reserve team when not restricted with knee problems.

★★★★

Just how many Aussies are there playing in Singapore's professional S-League competition? Well, at the moment there's a total of ten players at five clubs, namely:

Morgan (MID) of Sengkang Marine

-Hrvoje Matkovic (MID) of

Singapore Armed Forces FC

-Peter Kresser (MID) of Tanjong Pagar United

NEWS FLASH!

-SCOTT GUYETT has reportedly signed for Chester City from Oxford for £10,000
-Former South Melbourne star JOHN SAMARAS has quit as OFI Crete coach to support his 12 year-old son at Feyenoord Rotterdam



Tony Carbone: Former Nottingham Forest midfielder is now based in Singapore.

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Picks of the Week

This week, we look at the five 'known' Aussies playing in SCANDINAVIA.



Luke Casserly of AIK Solna (Sweden).



Ante Covic (punching) of Hammarby (Sweden).



Kasey Wehrman of Moss (Norway).



Clayton Zane (left) of Lillestrom (Norway).



Saso Petrovski of Viborg (Denmark).

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BLATTER RE-ELECTED AS FIFA PRESIDENT

Incumbent FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter was re-elected in the first round for another four-year term at the helm of the world governing body.

Mr. Blatter obtained 139 votes against 56 votes for his opponent, FIFA Vice-president and CAF President Issa Hayatou.

The vote came at the end of an eight-hour ordinary congress in Seoul during which the association delegates and members of the various FIFA committees extensively discussed the state of FIFA and particularly its financial situation.

In his first statements after the election, the FIFA President put the emphasis



on the need to restore unity and peace within the football community and its bodies, telling the delegates: "I register your deep trust, your deep trust in FIFA and in me. I have to install peace in this family here and I will do it."

According to the roll call, 197 associations were present and entitled to vote. Korea DPR and Eritrea were not present, while Afghanistan, Cape Verde Islands, Djibouti, and Niger, as well as Turks and Caicos, were not eligible to vote for statutory reasons. Of the 197 votes cast, 195 were valid, bringing the necessary two-thirds majority in the first round to 130.

Discussing the FIFA activ-

ity report 2000 - 2002, the delegates debated intensively on the state of FIFA's finances, continuing the discussion from the Extraordinary Congress the previous day when time limitations had not enabled all associations to take the floor.

As a consequence of the debates and the transparency on financial matters, the budget for 2003 was approved. It is foreseen that reporting on finances will be on an annual basis. It was also agreed that the IAC would continue its work with a view to submitting its results by the end of 2002. It was further noted that, as previously announced, as of 1 January 2003 FIFA would switch to

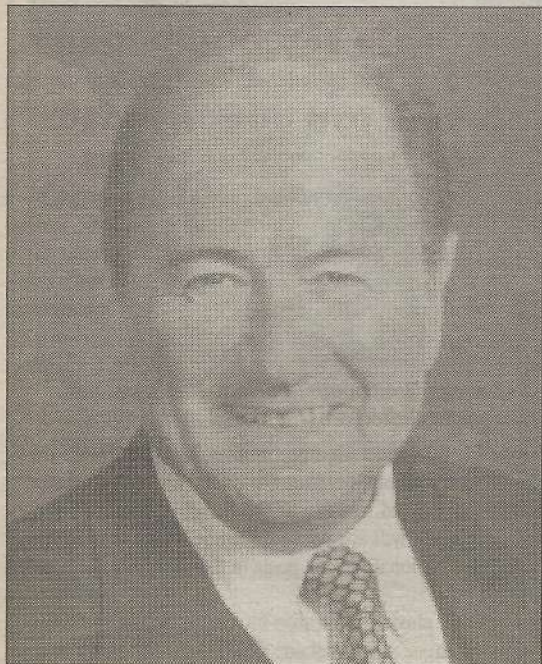
the International Accounting Standards for its book-keeping.

The new members of the FIFA Executive, elected by their respective confederations,

were also installed at the congress. The President of the Spanish FA, Angel Villar Llona, already a member of the FIFA Executive, now is a FIFA Vice-presi-

dent. The President of the German FA, Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, and Michel Platini were welcomed as new members.

*Source - www.fifa.com



Sepp Blatter: Has been voted in as FIFA President again.

A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers

Empoli Youth Academy

The A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers are pleased to announce the establishment of the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt — Empoli Youth Academy.

The Academy will compete in next Summer's NSW Premier Youth League as the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt — Empoli Youth Academy, and will take part in the prestigious U/20 Viareggio World Club Tournament in Italy in February 2003.

We invite expressions of interest from talented players born in 1983, 1984, 1985 or 1986 that wish to be part of this most exciting venture.

If you believe you have what it takes to compete on the World stage, call John Romeo, technical director of the A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt — Empoli Youth Academy on 0412-808-114 or 9626-1999.

"Your Serie A dream may only be one phone call away!"

Italian Serie B club Empoli (who will be promoted to Serie A next season, was the home of Australian Superstar Marco Bresciano), with Vince Grella still there.

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Australian & British Soccer Weekly in conjunction with World Class Entertainment + Events Pty Ltd proudly announce the launch of their World Cup competition.

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Sydney's Socceroo preparations under way

By Mark Stavroulakis

For almost two weeks now, a squad of 14 National League players (From Sydney Clubs) have been in training for a hopeful Socceroo call-up at the up and coming Oceania Nations Cup in New Zealand.

At the moment, there are 3 training camps being held across Australia; The Sydney camp coached by Graham Arnold and Olympic Sharks mentor Gary Phillips, The Melbourne camp coached by Ange Postecoglou and VIS coach Ernie Merrick and finally the Perth camp taken by Glory number one, Mich d'Avray.

Sydney's camp boasts a number of youngsters ready to play for their country for the first time.

The Olympic Sharks club is the more prominent figure at Sydney's camp with 9 players gunning for a green and gold jersey.

Paul Kohler, Dylan MacAllister, Jade North, Wayne Shroff, Andrew Durante, Ante Milicic, Ante Juric, Greg Owens, Andrew Packer and finally Tommy Pondeljak (training at the Melbourne camp) are proudly representing this year's National League Champions.

The Marconi Stallions boast two rising players: Grant Last and Michael Beauchamp.

Michael Prentice and Robbie Middleby represent the Newcastle stable while Parramatta Power's exciting winger Ahmad Elrich makes up the final 14.

The squad has been training at Sydney's Seymour Shaw in Sutherland, a ground filled

with excellent facilities to hold such an occasion.

The Sydney camp will undergo three friendly matches before Socceroo coach Frank Farina jets back to Australia from the World Cup, to select his 22 players from across the country.

Two NSW Winter Super League clubs have been penciled in to play against the squad: Manly Warringah Dolphins coached by former Socceroo great Robbie Slater will play the side on Wednesday, the following week sees the powerful Rockdale Suns side slug it out with the potential Soccerooos, and finally a Sutherland select side (consisting of current and ex-National League players) will finish off the trial proceedings.

Olympic Sharks coach Gary Phillips was obviously overjoyed with the inclusion of 10 players from his squad and hopes that many of them make the final cut. "It's firstly fantastic to be invited to coach the side alongside Graham Arnold. I think in my mind, there's every reason to see at least 8 or 9 of the player's progress to the final squad. It's wonderful for the club to have the majority of the training squad being built up of Sharks players. It's also rewarding to see them advance from the start of the National League season to a possible Socceroo call-up," said Phillips.

Goalkeepers Liam Reddy (Parramatta Power) and Michael Turnbull (Marconi Stallions) are also expected to join the squad this week for trials.

A full listing of the final Socceroo squad will be announced in three weeks time to the media.

MICHAEL PETKOVIC OFF TO TURKEY WHILE GOUTZIOULIS INTERESTS NEWCASTLE

By Mark Stavroulakis

Three-time NSL Goalkeeper of the Year and South Melbourne star Michael Petkovic is reported to have signed for Turkish First Division side Trabzonspor.

'Petka' will join up with former teammate and Young Socceroo Tansel Baser, who has fared in the Turkish First Division for the past couple of seasons.

The 25-year-old has tasted overseas football twice in his so far glittering National League career.

France was his first destination in 1999 when he signed with Strasbourg. It wasn't to be for Petkovic as he failed to make any appearances for the French club.

The last side Michael played for overseas was a 3-month

loan move to Norwegian club Lillestrom. The same scenario happened to the gifted custodian, as he failed to play any football at the club.

The Petkovic name is very well known on the shores of Australia, as both Michael and brother and current Glory custodian Jason Petkovic have made big impacts in the sport so far.

Having represented Australia four times in his career, a successful overseas move could see him pull back into a Socceroo spot.

Meanwhile, former



George Goutzioulis: Parramatta Power and Newcastle United are interested in the midfielder.

Kingz FC midfielder George Goutzioulis has attracted the interest of Ian Crook's Newcastle United for next season.

The 24-year-old was one of the Kingz stand-out players last season and will always be remembered for scoring one of the best National League goals in the history of the competition.

Currently playing off-season football at South Australian Premier League side Adelaide Galaxy, the attacking midfielder has impressed many at the 'City of Churches' with some brilliant performances.

Goutzioulis was being chased by Nick Theodorakopoulos' Power however from reports it looks like Newcastle United are winning the race to sign the no nonsense midfielder.



Michael Petkovic: South Melbourne custodian off to Trabzonspor.

LIA AND DURAKOVIC LOOK TO NEW SEASON

By Daniel Kuziow

Vince Lia became the first 16 year old to start a match in the 2001/02 season, while at age 36 Mehmet Durakovic was inducted into the South Melbourne Team of the Century.

Yet one thing unites these two players-their ambition to continue playing at South Melbourne in 2002/2003.

Lia became just the 40th player in the history of the National Soccer League to make a starting eleven aged 16 and joins a select group that includes Paul Agostino, Matthew Bingley, Zeljko Kalac, Kevin Muscat and Tony Popovic and Lia's starting appearance, made at age 16 years and 299 days, ranks as South Melbourne's youngest starter since 1978 when Socrates Nicolaides started against Adelaide Sharks on 20 August 1978, aged 16 years 7 days.

The attacking midfielder made 12 appearances for the Blue and Whites this season with his first start being at Perth Oval where he had the mission of man-marking two time Championship winning player Matt Horsley.

"Before I went to Perth Fausto De Amicis gave me some advice. He basically told me to just do what I do best, play my normal game and enjoy myself", says Lia.

Shepparton born Lia, who signed a two-year contract before the finals was pleased with the way the season turned out for him and will now try to cement a spot in the first eleven to play regular football next season. "In the beginning it was difficult to adapt to the pace of the game. It took me a few matches to become accustomed to the standard. It was great to get first team experience this year. When I came into the squad I didn't expect get an opportunity".

"I definitely want to play regularly for South Melbourne, then represent Australia and hopefully an overseas Club. I would love to play in England or Spain.

Mehmet Durakovic meanwhile joined South Melbourne in the NSL's first summer season of

1989/90 and at the age of 36 is still looking to continue his career at Bob Jane Stadium.

"I am enjoying playing football. As long as I am physically fit then I still want to keep playing".

Earlier this year the courageous Durakovic who has played 195 games for the Club, was inducted into South Melbourne's Team of the Century an honour that Durakovic is very proud of. "It is a great honour to be chosen as part of the 40 Hall of Champions let alone the 16-man Team of the Century".



Mehmet Durakovic

Vince Lia

It is a privilege to be part of this unique team and I will always treasure it and hold it highly", says the former Socceroo. Durakovic represented Australia on 59 occasions (1990 to 1997) and may once again pull on the Green and Gold guernsey in the upcoming Oceania Nations Cup.

Durakovic who has scored 8 NSL goals, one this season, has not contemplated retirement. His remarkable form at 36 is a credit to his hard work ethic and his courage to further risk injury whilst playing on after many serious collisions, further confirm his inspiration and passion and is surely a benefit to the youngsters like Vince Lia coming through the ranks at South.

PASSION FOR SUCCESS SPURS FOOTBALL ELITE YOUNGSTERS

By Ben Moring

Football Elite is a comprehensive new 'total' training programme for the player who wants to excel in the game. This is a unique programme in that the needs of the youth are catered for on and off the field.

Mentoring, resume building and personal development is as important as control on the ball, passing and tactical awareness.

Now in the fourth week of its inaugural term, Football Elite has set in motion the skills that will allow the committed squad of youth to take giant steps towards better things in the future.

Testament to this fact is Joshua Lawson, who travels 7 hours from Coffs Harbour just to participate in this exciting and technically sound training schedule. Playing for Northern NSW, Joshua wants to make his name in football and distance is no obstacle in his pursuit.

Michael Dahdal, the founder of this programme, wants his pupils to 'make no excuses' and push themselves to become the type of players that demand the best from themselves. Dahdal takes control of the 15-20 year-olds and is ably assisted by Aden Boxall, who sees over the 11-14 year-olds.

The training sessions are expertly and efficiently run. Attention to detail is an important part of the entire exercise and such is the respect for the programme and each other's learning, not a word is heard during drills from the focussed trainees. Chris Hochuli, who recently played with the Penrith Panthers, is on his way to FC Basle in Switzerland.



Football Elite's promising young squad.

Seventeen-year-old Hochuli is excited about the prospect of playing abroad and spoke about how he secured a contract.

"When we (Parramatta Melita 17s) went to Europe last August, I went for a trial after the initial tour of Europe", he said. "I went to FC Basle and to a training camp for a week, where I trained morning and night. I came back to Australia and about a week later received a call saying they (FC Basle) were interested."

"About a week after that I received a contract in the mail," Hochuli continued. "I know the standard will be high and Switzerland has just won the Under-17s European Cup."

"Initially I'll be with the youth and ultimately after one or two years want to be pushing for a first grade spot."

"Real Madrid would be the ultimate goal."

Football Elite officially kicked off on Monday May 6th 2002. The first ever squad is:

Louis D'Elia (Granville Association U/14), Craig Jacob (Sydney United U/15), Matthew Papandrea (Bankstown City U/11s), Aaron Child (St. George U/17), Joshua Lawson (NNSW State Team & Coffs Coast Tigers, Coffs Harbour U/16), Chris Hochuli (Penrith Panthers SC U/19), David Comito (Parramatta Eagles U/19), Jason McMinimee (Parramatta Eagles U/19), Jimmy Psarianos (Sydney United U/14), Anthony Avati (AC United U/11), Christiaan Zeleny (Sutherland Sharks U/12), Daniell Zeleny (Sutherland, Sharks U/14), Marwan Kassiss (Leichhardt Tigers U/17s).

For details on the 'complete' programme, visit www.fbelite.com

BLANCO SUPRISED BY CROATIAN CHOICE

By Daniel Kuziow

With the World Cup well under way, Marconi coach Raul Blanco says he remains surprised that Aussie-born duo of Joe Simunic and Ante Seric have lined up to don the colours of Croatia.

The ex-Australia and Olympics head coach told the Daily Telegraph, "You have to



Raul Blanco: Current Marconi Coach is still surprised at Simunic and Seric's decision to represent Croatia.

respect the line both players took but I still recall Ante's family saying four years ago that their son was deadly serious about wearing the Australian shirt and nothing else.

"The next thing you know he's lining up for Croatia against the Socceroos in a friendly in Zagreb. It was an incredible surprise to me after what had been said.

"He'd been on tour with us with the Young Socceroos. He was a good kid with a fabulous attitude. One can only assume that when he was playing at Hajduk Split, there must have been enormous pressure placed on him to play for Croatia."

On Simunic, Blanco added: "I made a special trip to Hamburg to talk to him but he could never give me a definite answer. He'd had his share of injuries and, in the end, I didn't pick him."

Seric and Simunic are both graduates of the renowned Australian Institute of Sport Soccer program and have excelled at club level.

Canberra-born Siminic now plies his trade in the German Bundesliga with Hertha Berlin



Ante Seric Joe Simunic

while the Sydney-born Seric plays in the Serie A with Verona.

While many would wish that both players had turned out in the green and gold of Australia, the fact remains; they are now plying their trade at the highest international level. Of some consolation is the fact that the AIS have produced two more World-class players.

PORTER ON THE BOOKS FOR GLORY AS MALONEY SAYS GOODBYE

By Mark Stavroulakis

Parramatta Power have secured the services of former Glory star Brad Maloney on a 2-year-deal.

The 30-year-old had a great time at Perth as the Glory soared to many heights in their historic National League run.

Maloney told the West Australian, "It was great to be a part of the Glory - it's one of the biggest clubs in Australia".

Power's new Coach Nick



Brad Maloney: The former Glory star has signed a 2-year-deal with Parramatta Power.

Theodorakopoulos is no doubt building a side for a Championship next season and with the inclusion of Maloney and a few other National League stars, Parramatta could be the side to take out next seasons National League.

"Bugsy" believes that the Power will be a huge force in next season's competition. "Parramatta are very ambitious and they want to reach the sort of standards set by the Glory. At this stage of my career, it's a new challenge."

Maloney will always be known as the most expensive National League transfer when he signed from Marconi to the Glory in 2000, with the fee being \$130,000.

Glory Coach Mich d'Avray was of course upset about the loss of such a quality player however admitted that the package the Power offered was far too high for Perth to match. The Glory however have targeted out-of-contract Melbourne Knights star Joel Porter.

The diminutive attacker scored 11 goals in the National League this season with the Knights and was also in the running for Player of the Year in the National League this year. The 24-year-old recently enjoyed a two-week stint with Josip

Skoko's Racing Genk in Belgium, however news about his trial has yet to be announced.

The Power were believed to be chasing the left-footed star but strong reports indicate that the Glory are firm favourites of signing up one of Australia's exciting young prospects.



Joel Porter: One of Australia's exciting young prospects is being targeted by the Glory

BRESCIANO AND GRELLA IN SERIE A

By Mark Stavroulakis

Two Australians next season will take part in Italy's prestigious Serie A as Empoli progressed into the big league.

Former Carlton stars and current Australian internationals Marco Bresciano and Vince Grella were main instigators in the sides promotion towards the top flight.

Even though Ancona defeated Empoli 3-2 last week, luck went the sides way as results favoured the Aussie contingent team.

It was a touching end to Bresciano's Empoli career, as the gifted midfielder will move to glamour Serie A side Parma in the off-season for £7.5 million.

The 22-year-old had a sterling season this year in the Serie B as he was rated as one of the best

players in the competition.

Vince also enjoyed a great season playing very consistently in the middle of the park.

Grella should star in the side's starting eleven next season, as the Melbourne born star will face up to some of the world's best footballers.

The Serie A has been a tough league for Aussies to crack into in past seasons. A few youngsters last season signed with Serie A clubs, former Joey captain Carl Valeri signed a 3-year-deal with Inter Milan while former AIS graduate Matthew Engele signed for Chievo Verona for three years as well.

It is expected that more exciting young prospects will make the move to Italy in the next two seasons as it is known that a number of Italian clubs have shown keen



Marco Bresciano: Australian star will don the outfit of Parma in next seasons Serie A.

Vince Grella: The former Carlton star will feature in next seasons Serie A with Empoli.

interests in young Australian players.

Power move against increasing season

Parramatta Power Deputy Chairman Denis Fitzgerald has voiced his concern over Soccer Australia's decision to extend the National Soccer League competition season to 39 rounds.

In speaking about the proposal, Fitzgerald said the decision would not rectify the problem of the game, but would instead create more of a financial burden for clubs.

"This decision has been made without any research or in depth

consultation with the Clubs," he said.

While all other NSL clubs voted for the 39-match proposal on May 15, Fitzgerald believes it was not given due the attention from the clubs it deserved.



many NSL Clubs.

"Soccer Australia made the decision to increase the number of rounds following an urgent meeting of the clubs last week.

The additional 13 rounds means the Power must find more than \$500,000 to finance the extra 13 matches.



Denis Fitzgerald: Power Chairman is disappointed about the new 39 round National League season.

Commenting as to the reasons why such schemes the deputy chairman said "Soccer fans in Australia want to see more quality of matches not more in quantity and this proposal will just further downgrade the product.

A major reason for Rugby's Super 12's being so successful is that it is an 11-match competition with each team having only five or six home matches with each match having major event status.

"I see no advantages at all in an additional 13 matches, but with the added burden of more player match payments, extra travel costs and more match day costs.

This proposal will definitely hasten the financial demise of

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ON THE RISE

By Binesh Mudaliar

By the end of 2002, Australian inter-state soccer will have an unofficial hierarchy of teams. One State destined to be near the top of the rankings is South Australia.

So far this year, the Croweaters have drawn 0-0 with Western Australia and defeated NSW 2-1, the latter result being South Australia's first victory against the Blues in almost 30 years.

In South Australian soccer's 100th year anniversary, more inter-state fixtures have been scheduled against Queensland, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania and there is a growing feeling in Australia's soccer community that South Australia and Queensland will battle it out for top honours.

One of the reasons put forward by Rodger King, the Competitions Manager at the South Australian Soccer Federation, for the strength of the South Australian State team is the increase in the standard of elite level domestic soccer. King says, "I think that the standard of the South Australian Premier League has been slowly increasing over the last 3 or 4 years and one of the indicators of this is our win against NSW."

A flick through the Adelaide Advertiser's soccer section will reveal many accomplished players lacing up in the Premier League. The Con Makris-owned

Adelaide Galaxy is arguably leading the way by signing high profile players from Sydney, namely former Sydney Olympic members Anthony Doumanis and John Kyriazopoulos and Naoki Imaiya from West Ham United feeder club, Blacktown City. Also in Galaxy's squad is ex-Southampton defender Mark Graham and former youth internationals Matthew Milosevic, Jim Tsekis and George Goutzioulis. Goutzioulis also played for South Melbourne against Manchester United and Rayos del Necaxa in the 2000 World Club Championships in Brazil. Former Liberian international Andy Amegashie had a short stint at the Galaxy while it is rumoured that two-time NSW Soccer Federation Gold Medal winner Jim Nikas is being wooed by Makris.

Aside from the vast number of ex-National League players suiting up in the Premier League, other notable players include former Young Socceroos David Terminello (Adelaide City) and Louis Brain (Campbelltown), ex-NSW Super League Golden Boot Mark Hagger (Metro Stars), former Hibernian youth player Sean Widera (Raiders) and two ex-youth internationals who are possibly the most high-profile players in the Premier League, Kosta

Salapadidis and Elias Demourtzidis, both of whom play for Olympic FC.

Rodger King believes that the influx of high profile interstate and overseas players as well as talented locals is a direct result of the Premier League clubs drive for success. "The various clubs competing want the Premier League title and are therefore looking far and wide for better players. The standard of the Premier League as a whole has naturally increased."

And to back-up King's point, the big-spending Adelaide Galaxy were on top of the ladder after 11 rounds, 5 points ahead of Metro Stars. It seems that the trend of signing big-name former NSL players and youth internationals eager for hard football, has spread from NSW to Victoria to Queensland and is now taking South Australia by storm.

The South Australian Premier League is a twelve-team competition conducted by the South Australian Soccer Federation. The combatants are Adelaide Galaxy, Metro Stars, Adelaide Blue Eagles, Raiders, Playford Patriots, White City Warriors, Olympic FC, Para Hills Knights, Modbury, Campbelltown City, Adelaide City and Pirates.



ERA ENDS FOR CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS

By Richard Kreider

The only team captain Perth Glory has ever known in its six years of existence in the National Soccer League is leaving the club after failing to gain the opportunity of seeing out the remaining year on his contract.

Gareth Naven, a man of few words but a leader in every sense of the word, leaves a midfield void that will arguably be tough to fill. His influence both on and off the field will long be remembered; so much so, Glory coach Mich d'Avray is considering recommending the number 6 shirt be retired in his honour.

"Gareth's contribution, not just to Perth Glory but to Western Australian sport, has been immense," said d'Avray.

"As inaugural club captain he was the public face of the club at a time when soccer in WA went from relative obscurity to one of the leading codes in terms of crowds and media coverage."

"This role demanded great leadership qualities, media skills and diplomacy. Gareth has also set the benchmark for others to follow in terms of promotion of the game in the community. I doubt any other player has signed more autographs, conducted more coaching clinics or visited more schools and community groups."

"If the next generation of players can show even half that commitment to the game then the club and the code will be well served," said d'Avray.

"The club is working on a way to

give the fans a chance to say thank you to Gareth, preferably at our first home game of the new season."

"Perhaps the most significant honour he received came at the start of my first year here at the club as assistant coach, when he was unanimously voted captain by his fellow squad members. Nothing matters more to players than the appreciation of their peers and I am sure that was a great honour for Gareth."

Naven is one of just three players remaining from the original 1996/97 debut squad; Bobby Despotovski and Scott Miller are the last survivors.

"I will miss playing alongside the likes of Bobby and Scotty but I will still keep in touch with them as I do with former players like Tommy Maras, Paul McVittie, Paul Strudwick and my brother Craig. There is a group of seven that stay in touch and I wouldn't like to lose that," he said.

"Among the highlights would have to be our first game against Sydney Olympic. We lost 4-1 but in that game we had 11 WA players; nine of which were in the first eleven. It was a memorable match because it had been such a long time before we got a team in the National Soccer League."

Although his career disappointments are few, two especially would provide the biggest heartache, and they relate to both grand finals Glory featured in. Especially the first against Wollongong Wolves in 1999/00, where the then coach Bernd Stange surprised most pundits by putting the captain on the bench.

"When you get told at 11:30 on the morning that you are not going to play

in the Grand Final, especially when you have played most of the season, it's a big kick in the arse," fired Naven. "It's the biggest day of the season."

Naven only made last season's Grand Final because of an injury to midfielder Brad Maloney, who has since transferred to Parramatta Power. Naven had been struggling to get back into the side for most of the season because of injury.



Gareth Naven: Glory stalwart served the club well.

To date, Naven has yet to hear from another NSL club, although he has hinted at a chance to play in South-East Asia.

"The club will assist in finding a club for Gareth. It is the least we can do in recognition of his magnificent service to Perth Glory," said d'Avray. "I wish him every success in the

future and have no doubt that whatever involvement he desires in the game when it finally comes time to hang up his boots he will achieve it and be a great success."

Naven however, has yet to express an interest in an area of football outside the playing area. "I thought I had another year at the club but that's not the way they see it. I certainly didn't think it would just end like this."

"So at this stage I am not thinking about coaching or anything in the administration side because my legs are still going and I still have the desire to carry on playing," he said.

Meanwhile, the man d'Avray considers to be one of the best imports ever to grace the NSL, Brazilian midfielder Edgar Junior, has signed a further one-year contract. "Edgar is a key player and we are delighted to have secured his services for another season," said d'Avray.

"He is not a flashy player but I believe he is one of the most successful imports the NSL has ever seen," the Glory coach added. "When he plays well the team fires and he performs a very important role in the midfield."

"He is a model professional and offers a fine example to younger players as to how to conduct themselves and approach a professional career."

Edgar has recently flown to Brazil for a holiday.

The Perth club has also been in discussion with Melbourne Knights striker Joel Porter, who is out of contract and is reportedly close to securing the signature of ex-Marconi Stallions attacking-midfielder John Maisano.

AUSSIE REF AT THE WORLD CUP



By Ray Sandell

The 28-year-old Queenslander, Mark Shield, is the only Australian active participant at the World Cup in Korea/Japan. "Referee of the Year" for the just completed National League season, Mark is one of only thirty two referees selected worldwide to officiate in the elite competition.

ABSW has arranged for Mark to keep our readers up to date with the goings on at the other and very important side of the competition. We will be receiving weekly reports on referees' activities both on and off the field and get Mark's thoughts on being involved in the world's greatest sporting competition.

Mark arrived in Korea on 22nd May, nine days before the start of the tournament along with the other 35 referees and 36 assistants (linesmen). Everybody was given a day off to get over jet lag etc. and official clothing and uniforms were handed out. On Friday it was down to business with a two hour training session in hot, humid weather. After a restful afternoon it was off to the official FIFA welcome dinner with President Sep Blatter and the FIFA executive.

Saturday was taken up by an all day seminar where everybody was put through the ropes and told what FIFA and the participating teams expected of them. Most of the information regarding how to handle certain infringements etc were covered in a three day exercise held in March at a pre World Cup seminar and today's seminar was mainly a reminder of previous instructions.

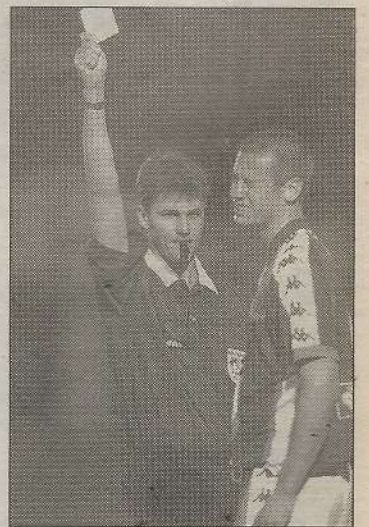
On Saturday evening all officials were given their first lot of appointments with Mark allocated the fourth official's job for the England v Sweden match, played last Sunday, and will referee the match between Tunisia and Belgium on Monday 10th. Sunday was another two hour training session in the morning and the afternoon saw the officials moving to Japan, preparing for their next morning's flight.

On arrival in Tokyo the referees were in for a big surprise to find they had been located in one of the best hotels, about one and a half hours out of the city and in one of the most beautiful areas in the country. Just the place to relax and prepare for the competition to start in a few days time!

They were given the honour of having tea with the Imperial Prince and Princess of Japan where everything from soccer to world affairs was discussed and everybody generally forgot the troubles of other parts of the world.

The hotel is generally very well set up with a private leisure room for referees and a large variety of meals to suit all diets. Referees train each day for two hours and an optional early training session for early risers which is mainly attended by the referees' trainer! Relaxation is the main theme after training and with the leisure room boasting a table soccer game Mark and England's Graham Poll took on Italy and Jamaica in the shape of Collina and Prendergast, but went down 10-3!

"By the time this report goes to print the early games will have been well and truly finished," said Mark. "I will have improved my table soccer prowess, and hopefully recorded a win. It is slowly dawning on me that I am preparing for what all soccer players and officials dream of, actively participating in a World Cup. I can now appreciate the disappointment shown by the Socceroos following their defeat in Uruguay. To be here is fantastic. I hope I don't wake up too early in the dream!! Cheers for now"



Mark Shield: Australia's only representative at the World Cup.

BRENNAN UNHAPPY ABOUT ACT SOCCER'S FUTURE

By Graham Cooke

Monaro coach Tony Brennan believes ACT soccer is on the slippery slope to oblivion and that only radical changes can arrest the decline.

The often controversial figure, who has fallen foul of Soccer Canberra for speaking his mind in the past, believes a change to summer soccer is one way of reviving the Premiership which in recent seasons has shrunk from 10 to eight clubs.

"I would make it a one-grade summer competition, with everyone else still playing in winter," he said. "I know the main argument against it - that it would inhibit the Belconnen Blue Devils in the NSW Premier League."

"But the Blue Devils are one club. We are talking about the welfare and survival of an entire soccer administration."

Brennan said the bitterly cold Canberra winters were deterring players in the Premiership, with clubs training on at least two

nights during the week. "Increasingly the players are either giving the game away or going to lower grades where not so much night training is required," he said.

He agreed with other officials and coaches that this season had marked the beginning of a new era in the Canberra game. "Suddenly, the faces which have dominated the competition for the past 10 years have gone, and



Tony Brennan: Monaro coach worried about ACT's soccer popularity.

we have an unprecedented number of young players coming through the ranks.

"Of course this should be good for the long-term future of the game, but on the other hand we must give these youngsters the incentives to keep playing," Brennan said.

"Even though there is no National League club here we must preserve the dream of being able to play through the ranks to represent Australia and maybe go overseas."

"I'm really worried. Against Gungahlin Juventus last week it was a great atmosphere with a good crowd - and I say that even though we lost the game."

"But increasingly these matches are rarities. When we played Belconnen United earlier in the season there were no more than 40 spectators in the ground."

"I know I'll be criticised for speaking out like this, but people of my generation, who were part of some of ACT soccer's finest moments in the 1970s and 80s, cannot just sit back and watch it die in the 21st Century."

ACT PREMIERSHIP WRAP-UP

By Graham Cooke

It has become fashionable to decry the falling standards of the ACT Premiership, yet the much-maligned competition can still turn on the entertainment and excitement, as it did on Sunday when Belconnen United shook loose the shackles of ill fortune to beat Capital City Suns 3-2.

Sadly, one criticism is only too close to the mark. The game, which had most of the elements of a good afternoon's entertainment, was watched by no more than 100 people, many of them relatives and participants in the reserve and youth grades played earlier in the day. Maybe competition with the World Cup on television had something to do with it, but both sides deserved a better audience.

The result came as a relief to the scattering of United supporters and coach Oscar Langone, ending a string of four losses which began on May 5 and saw the team plunge to second-bottom in the competition. It was not an easily gained achievement, with the opposition twice getting back on terms, and there was some justification for the Suns' lament that a draw would have been a fairer result.

If Seleke had a defensive rival on the field, it was his opposite number, Lee Pietrukowski, and as it happened he also had a part to play in the scoring. In the 25th minute the lively Clinton Larfield being shoved over in the penalty area and Pietrukowski stepped up to plant the spot kick firmly past goalkeeper Peter Flores.

Canberra Deakin took a major step towards the minor premiership as their closest rivals dropped points. They were a goal down to an Elia Salloum header, but came back to record their seventh straight win by 3-1.

Second placed Monaro stumbled badly, conceding a 2-2 draw to bottom club Weston Creek Royals. It was the Royals' first point of the season, and they could easily have had more, a late Danny Macor penalty robbing them of the win.

And Gungahlin Juventus and Tuggeranong United also drew 2-2. Loric David put United in front, Oscar Zamora equalised, Matthew Menser restored Tuggeranong's lead before Martin Lazzari ensured Juventus shared the points. In an incident untypical of the game as a whole, Juventus' Neil Stoddard and Jeremy Butler of Tuggeranong, were sent off.

The Premiership has a week off this weekend with the Canberra Rockets playing the Illawarra League in the annual representative fixture.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	7	6	1	0	2	4	19
Monaro	7	4	2	1	18	10	14
Gungahlin Juventus	8	3	4	1	24	18	13
Tuggeranong United	8	3	2	3	14	14	11
Capital City Suns	8	2	3	3	14	12	9
Belconnen United	8	3	0	5	13	15	9
Canberra Olympic	8	2	3	3	12	21	9
Weston Creek Royals	8	0	1	7	5	30	1

AUSTRALIANS CAN STILL GET INVOLVED IN THE SOCCER WORLD CUP!

For the first time ever, Australians will have the chance to truly support a team and share in the excitement and experience of the World Cup — thanks to Sports TAB!

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USA	\$6.50	Draw \$3.75	Portugal \$1.45
Germany	\$1.80	Draw \$3.25	Rep. of Ireland \$4.10
Denmark	\$2.10	Draw \$3.15	Senegal \$3.15
Cameroon	\$1.20	Draw \$5.25	Saudi Arabia \$11.00
France	\$1.50	Draw \$4.00	Uruguay \$5.15

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Poland	\$126.00
Belgium	\$126.00
Japan	\$126.00
Uruguay	\$201.00
Ecuador	\$201.00
Korea	\$201.00
Mexico	\$251.00
Slovenia	\$351.00
South Africa	\$501.00
USA	\$501.00
Costa Rica	\$501.00
Tunisia	\$751.00
China	\$751.00
Saudi Arabia	\$5001.00

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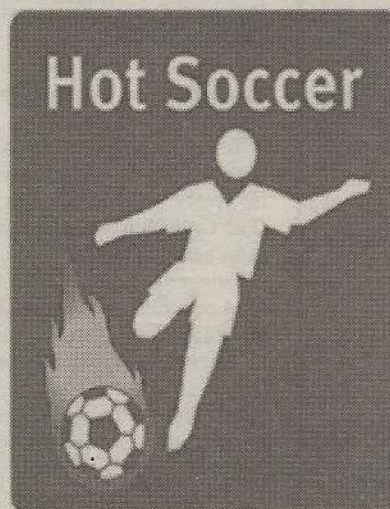
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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

TOOWOOMBA UPSET THE IPSWICH KNIGHTS

Toowoomba eased away from the premier league relegation zone and breathed new life into the Top Six battle with an upset 2-1 home win over Ipswich Knights on Saturday night.

Goals from Jason Boswell and Anthony Brown gave Toowoomba only its eighth point of the season but a vital three point advantage and a superior goal difference over Mt Gravatt and last placed Rochedale Rovers.

Mt. Gravatt and Rochedale again suffered big losses with Taringa downing the Hawkes 4-1 at Dittmer Park while a 10-man North Star scored in each half to keep Rochedale anchored on the bottom with a 2-nil win at Underwood Park.

North Star's goals came from Angelo Gullota and veteran Michael Brockwell.

Apart from Toowoomba, the big winners were Taringa, which is gradually gaining momentum and is suddenly snapping at the heels of the Top Six contenders with two wins and a draw from its past three matches.

At the halfway mark of the season Queensland Lions remain unbeaten after a comprehensive 4-nil away win over Wynnum Wolves.

But Lions' will be without first team keeper Jason Lucas for up to eight weeks after he broke his knee in a Queensland trial match against North Queensland last week.

Lions dropped its first points of the sea-



Adem Poric: Former National League star scored for Gold Coast City in their 3-1 win over The Gap.

son in a midweek catch-up round drawing 1-all with third place Gold Coast.

Brisbane City and Gold Coast remain the only dangers to Lions' championship bid after City downed Easts 3-nil at Spencer Park while Gold Coast downed The Gap 3-1 at home.

Gold Coast's goals came from ever reliable Adem Poric, Cameron Watson and an own goal from the Gap.

Taringa coach John Ogden will get a better idea of his sides final hopes in the coming weeks with tough games against the Gold Coast, Brisbane Lions and Wynnum in the next three rounds.

Taringa's win over Mt Gravatt took them to 14 points but they remain seventh, only one point off fifth placed Ipswich.

"Our last seven goals have been superb," Ogden said.

"The three goals against Rochedale and the four against Mt Gravatt were all spectacular.

"After the losses from Ipswich and Wynnum, we're one point off fifth.

"A lot of people have been writing us off because of all our injuries problems but there's no reason for us to fear anyone.

"Gold Coast will be a hard game next round but then we've got Lions and Wynnum and those three games will give us an idea how we are going."

Taringa's State striker Daryl Hathway opened the scoring after 15 minutes when he combined with midfielder Craig Slaughter to slot home.

Slaughter then gave Taringa a 2-nil lead ten minutes before the break cutting in and rifling home with his left foot from 18 metres.

Midfielder Gino Invincible stung Mt Gravatt on the break before pulling the trigger into the top corner of the net for the visitor's third while striker Reza Aysen capitalised with a neat chip after Mt Gravatt keeper Graham Ross was drawn off his line.

A Des Hughes diving header off a Chris Day cross midway through the opening half was the only thing that separated Queensland Lions at halftime against Wynnum.

Wynnum had the chance to level at the break but Queensland rep Anthony Roche missed from the penalty spot after Nathan Carlos was ruled to have brought down Wolves' Josh Rose.

Despite their slender half time lead coach Miron Bleiberg was never really worried Lions risked a repeat of their Gold Coast draw.

"We had nine players in the Queensland team which beat North Queensland last week and we've lost Jason Lucas with a broken knee for six to eight weeks," Bleiberg said.

"Considering they had to back up from their Queensland duties there was nothing wrong with the Gold Coast draw.

"I told them after that game that the big test would be against Wynnum and that game would tell if the Gold Coast game was a one-off."

Lions banged home three goals after the break from Carlos, Darren Sime and a Reece Tollenaere volley to run out easy winners.

Coach Frank Pimblett was content with Brisbane City's performance in the first half of the season and is looking forward to the return encounter with Queensland Lions in the second round.

"Lions thumped us 6-nil but since then we've bounced back with five straight wins," Pimblett said.

"I want to win the championship and we've got to play Lions at our ground this time."

City scored all its goals against Easts in the first half and Pimblett was not worried with any perception of a lack of intensity after the break.

Former Brisbane Strikers forward Mark Battistin got City off to a strong start in the 18th minute heading home a cross whipped in by Robbie Kidd.

Battistin, who had been helping Pimblett with coaching duties, was starting for the first time this season after deciding to make a comeback.

On the half hour Andrew King made a deep run before drawing the keeper for Brisbane City's second goal while Kidd broke through a tackle and outstripped Easts' defence for pace for his side's third ten minutes before the break.

Like Lions, City also suffered a goal-

keeper injury with Scott Higgins taken from the field before the break with a shoulder injury.

"Easts are a young side and they never threw the towel in," Pimblett said.

"We competed better than last game and even though we didn't score after the break we had the game won.

"I'm pretty satisfied with our performances so far and we've only lost one game and had a draw."

Rochedale Rovers coach Keiran Cooper has denied rumours Queensland Lions will assist the struggling club in its battle to avoid relegation by loaning or selling some of its players.

"We had an hour against ten men and couldn't do anything," Cooper said.

"We played quite well but we weren't quite smart enough.

"I've been looking for players but there's just none out there.

"I've heard the rumours that Lions are going to give us some players but we haven't had any discussions about it.

"I've lost a few players over the last few years to Lions and I wouldn't mind getting some back but I don't want players just for the same of getting players.

"We're not a reserve team for Lions."



Frank Pimblett: Brisbane City's coach looking forward to the rest of the season.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 11

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Queensland Lions	11	10	0	1	29	4	31
Brisbane City	11	9	1	1	26	11	28
Gold Coast City	11	7	1	3	32	11	24
North Star	11	7	3	1	22	10	22
IPSW Knights	11	4	4	3	23	17	15
Wynnum	11	5	6	0	12	21	15
Taringa Rovers	11	4	5	2	16	17	14
Eastern Suburbs	11	3	6	2	13	22	11
The Gap	11	2	6	3	10	26	9
T'wmba Raiders	11	1	5	5	12	20	8
Mt Gravatt	11	1	8	2	8	30	5
Rochedale Rov	11	0	8	3	12	26	3

ROUND 9 RESULTS

Brisbane City (R Kidd, A King, M Battistin)	3	Eastern Suburbs	0
Taringa Rovers (G Invincible, D Hathway, R Aysen, C Slaughter)	4	Mt Gravatt (R Woodruffe)	1
T'wmba Raiders (J Bosworth, A Brown)	2	IPSW Knights (S Drinkeld)	1
Gold Coast City (A Poric, C Watson, Own goal)	3	The Gap (B Atkin)	1
North Star (A Gullotta, M Brockwell)	2	Rochedale Rov	0
Queensland Lions (N Carlross, D Hughes, D Sime, R Tollenaere)	4	Wynnum	0

FIRST DIVISION - Round 13

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. PINE RIVERS UTD	13	11	1	1	30	8	34
2. SOUTHS UTD	13	10	2	1	40	11	31
3. BUNDABERG WAVES	13	8	3	2	28	15	26
4. MITCHELTON	13	7	3	3	35	19	24
5. INALA CITY	13	6	4	3	26	18	21
6. ROCKLEA UTD	13	7	6	0	28	30	21
7. CAPALABA	13	5	3	5	30	20	20
8. UNI OF QLD	13	5	4	4	27	20	19
9. NEWMARKET	13	5	8	0	16	22	15
10. REDLANDS UTD	13	4	6	3	16	28	15
11. ALBANY CREEK	13	3	7	3	13	37	12
12. GRANGE THISTLE	13	2	9	2	12	36	8
13. BRIS. OLYMPIC UNI	13	1	9	3	7	26	6
14. SLACKS CREEK	13	0	9	4	10	28	4

Results for Round 13

BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	5	ALBANY CREEK	0
SOUTHS UTD	2	BUNDABERG WAVES	0
CAPALABA	4	SLACKS CREEK	1
ROCKLEA UTD	4	GRANGE THISTLE	3
INALA CITY	2	REDLANDS UTD	1
PINE RIVERS UTD	2	MITCHELTON	1
UNI OF QLD	3	NEWMARKET	0

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 12 ◆

Friday 14th June	
Wynnum v Brisbane City	7.30pm
Saturday 15th June	
T'wmba Raiders v Eastern Suburbs	7.00pm
Rochedale Rov v IPSW Knights	7.00pm
Mt Gravatt v North Star	6.00pm
Gold Coast City v Taringa Rovers	5.00pm
Sunday 16th June	
Queensland Lions v The Gap	4.00pm

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATS



ROUND 16 SUN, 16 JUN, 3:00 PM

Bentleigh Greens SC vs. Fawkner Blues SC
Preston Lions SC vs. Bulleen Zebras SC
Altona East Phoenix SC vs. Green Gully Cavaliers SC
St Albans Saints SC vs. Altona Magic SC
Fitzroy City SC vs. Port Melbourne Sharks SC
Heidelberg United SC vs. Whittlesea Stallions SC

ROUND 15 SATURDAY, 1 JUNE, 7:30 PM

Altona Magic SC 2 Fitzroy City SC 0
(Becvinovski S (2))

SUNDAY, 2 JUNE, 3:00 PM

Port Melbourne Sharks SC 3 Whittlesea Stallions SC 2
(Knezevic J, Hinoporos G, Own Goal) (Tricarico J (s))
Bentleigh Greens SC 2 Heidelberg United SC 0
(Nilo J (2))
Bulleen Zebras SC 0 Altona East Phoenix SC 1
(Papadopoulos N)
Fawkner Blues SC 2 Preston Lions SC 0
(Fa'arodo H, Sterjovski T)

SUNDAY, 2 JUN, 6:00 PM

Green Gully Cavaliers SC 1 St Albans Saints SC 1
(Tsaltas N) (Mrak G)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Fawkner Blues SC	15	8	5	2	25	14	29
2. Bentleigh Greens SC	15	7	7	1	24	12	28
3. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	15	7	4	4	17	9	25
4. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	15	7	4	4	33	26	25
5. Altona East Phoenix SC	15	6	6	3	17	12	24
6. Altona Magic SC	15	5	5	5	25	19	20
7. Whittlesea Stallions SC	15	4	8	3	21	23	20
8. Preston Lions SC	15	5	3	7	19	21	18
9. St Albans Saints SC	15	4	4	7	10	22	16
10. Heidelberg United SC	15	3	5	7	24	38	14
11. Fitzroy City SC	15	3	3	9	10	23	12
12. Bulleen Zebras SC	15	2	4	9	20	26	10



Nick Tsaltas: Green Gully star scored the only goal for his club's one-all draw with the St Albans Saints.



Action from the week-ends match between Bentleigh Greens and Heidelberg United.

At Last, Australia Wins A World Cup

An amateur football team from Melbourne, proudly calling themselves 'The Soccer Stars', last Friday sensationally won the inaugural 'Hyundai 5-A-Side Amateur World Finals' in Seoul, Korea.

The Australians shone brightly in the knock-out competition, which culminated in a dramatic and victorious finale against the USA.

The Australians brilliantly battled their more experienced American opponents to reach a 1-1 draw at full-time which necessitated the Final to be decided by that dreaded penalty shoot-out.

The gallant and ecstatic lads from Victoria won the shoot-out 8-7 in a nerve-wrecking display of talent and skill to give Australia the 'Hyundai 5-A-Side World Cup'.

As part of Hyundai's massive sponsorship backing of the 17th FIFA World Cup, no less than 40 nations competed in this World Amateur Football Championship, which included super powers from Brazil, Russia, Spain, Korea, China, Chile and Japan.

Chairman of Soccer Australia Ian Knop was one of many Aussie supporters present at the World Cup Plaza Sports Grounds last Friday to witness and cheer the Australians as they tenaciously battled from victory to victory.

"I am absolutely thrilled with today's result," Mr Knop said.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time an Australian Soccer team has won a World Final competition. It is a statement to the game of football, played in the best possible spirit. Hyundai must be congratulated for their commitment to grassroots football both in Australia, and across the world. This is a fantastic symbol of what young Soccer players can do at any level of the sport."

Last Friday's result in Seoul for the Australians brought to a close an amazing journey for the 'Soccer Stars'. The Stars qualified for the World Final in Korea by winning the Asia-Pacific regional finals of the Hyundai championship late last month in Singapore. Australia beat eight teams to emerge champions in the Round Robin games played at the Padang.

General Manager Marketing, Hyundai Mr Peter Evans, believes Australia's win in Seoul demonstrates the sheer talent that exists at an amateur level in our country.

"Australia's Soccerroos may have missed the 2002 FIFA World Cup, but today's result suggests there is an abundance of talent present at an amateur level of the game."

"The more international opportunities that local amateur players get, such as

present at an amateur level of the game."



Ian Knop: Sees Australia win World Cup.

the Hyundai 5-A-Side Amateur World Championships, the further Soccer will grow in Australia," concluded Mr Evans

Five-A-Side format The rules and format of the five-a-side tournament are unique in that they had been developed to promote speed and ball skills as key team attributes and to create a spectator-friendly fast moving game. Matches were played on a small 50-metre pitch over two 15-minute halves.

If no score at the conclusion of play, an additional period of five minutes each way was played. If there was still no score, the match was decided by penalty shoot-out.

VILLANI CHASES FORMER FORCE STARS

By Mark Stavroulakis

New Adelaide Force Coach Charlie Villani is hoping ex-Adelaide City stars will make their return to the 'City of Churches'.

Current Wollongong

Wolves midfielder, Dino Mennillo, spoke on a local Wollongong radio station and suggested his desire to return to his home-town.

Gone from Adelaide for 7-years, Dino in that time won a Championship with the Wolves and also played in Greece's 2nd Division with Kallithea. Apart from Dino, Stallions crafty defender Angelo Costanzo and Glory goal scoring machine Damian Mori (Both ex-Adelaide City players) are also



Dino Mennillo: The Wolves star could well find himself with the Zebras next year.

rumoured to be on the move to Adelaide.

The Force next season have re-signed every player from last year's squad and the

management are hoping to consolidate after last year's below par performance.



Damian Mori: Could don the black and white jersey of the Force next season.

FRASER PARK JETS



John Sentas: Coach



Adam Snyder



Antonio Farria



Derek Poimer

NSWSF SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 13

FRASER PARK
100 M'ville Rd
Marrickville

Fraser Park vs Manly Warringah

SUNDAY JUNE 9

KICK-OFF
11am Under 19
1pm Under 21

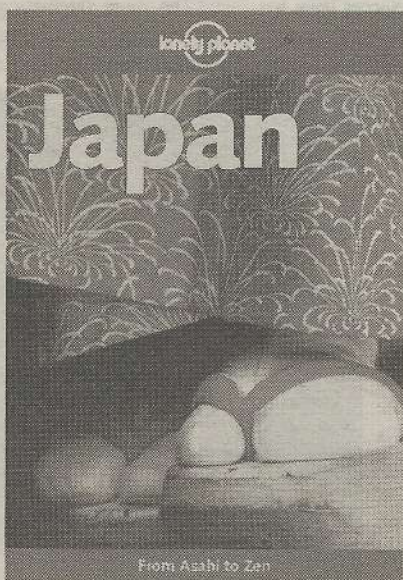
KICK OFF FIRST GRADE 3PM

"Come and see the Jets take off"

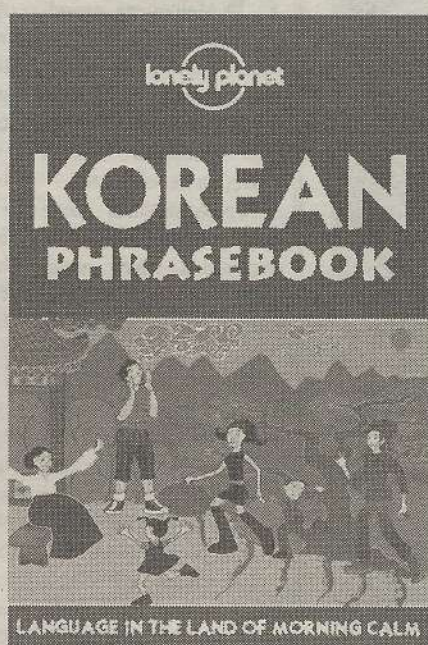
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SCORE WITH ABSW WORLD CUP GIVEAWAY



Top: Guide to Japan.
Right: Korean Phrasebook.



Anthems of the World.

There was a great response to our Anthems CD and Lonely Planet giveaways.
Congratulations to the following winners:

Anthems CDs

Azad Mortazavi, Eden NSW
Peter Flack, Tottenham VIC
Brendan Colusso, East Killara NSW
Kaan Peker, Adelaide SA
Deanne Sharpe, Guildford NSW
John Kok, Maroubra NSW
Elias Matouk, Broadbeach QLD
Daryl Castellino, Doonside NSW
Navid Zolfagharian, Carlton VIC
Mitch Tracey, Ryde NSW

Korea Package

Paul Kim, Ashfield NSW

Japan Package

Justin Moodie, Roma QLD

ABSW thanks Universal Music and Lonely Planet Guides for their involvement in this giveaway.

LES MURRAY'S WORLD GAME FEVER

Les Murray's
World Game Fever
COLLECTORS EDITION

MUSIC
CULTURE
HISTORY
PASSION

THE CUP



Well known football personality, Les Murray, is excited about this the 17th World Cup Finals. As seen on Channel 10's 'The Panel', Les has taken time out from his busy broadcast schedule to tackle a new project, 'Les Murray's World Game Fever - Collectors Edition.'

The double CD features music from around the world, as well as commentary from a man who has dedicated his life to this great game. Les Murray has

a musical past as well, singing for 'The Rubber Band' from 1969-1973 and so this project, which combines rhythm, beats and passion with football, is tailor-made for one of Australia's best-known sporting icons.

ABSW's Ben Moring caught up with Les Murray:

Q) Who do you think will win this World Cup and which teams do you consider dark horses?

"I do not like to tip the winners of tournaments, I am not a tipster, but I fancy the winner will come from Argentina, France or Italy. They are the strongest."

"France are the best team in the world at the moment and have great players in all positions and so they have the best credentials."

"Spain is a dark horse in the sense that they've never done anything at the World Cup and their number will come up at some stage."

"Portugal and Cameroon also, Samuel Eto'o is a very talented player and that may help Cameroon rise to the top if no mitigating circumstances affect them."

Q) Which players should we look for at this World Cup?

"If it's France's World Cup, then it will be Zidane's World Cup. He is the best player in the world at the moment and is unquestionably a big occasion player, but any of the French players may shine."

"Argentina are crawling with talent and any one could figure."

"I'm not sure if Figo will shine for Portugal, but I hope so as he is

one of my favourite players. Also of Portugal, Pauleta forced Nuno Gomes out and he could be a real find."

"Totti for Italy, Patrick Mboma for Cameroon is an excellent player, Michael Owen may figure (England) and I'm not surprised that Sven Goran Eriksson keeps picking (Darius) Vassell, he is a good player."

Q) You were involved in 'The Rubber Band', what type of music did they play and how long were you a member?

"The band started when a group of school buddies got together, I was not a founding member."

"I joined in 1969 after the original singer left and was there until 1973."

"We were a rock 'n' roll cover band, it was full on and sometimes very loud. It was a great life, care free, you enjoyed the natural high of the music."

Q) How did you become involved in this project?

"The record company (Petrol Records) came to me with a clever idea about combining football and music."

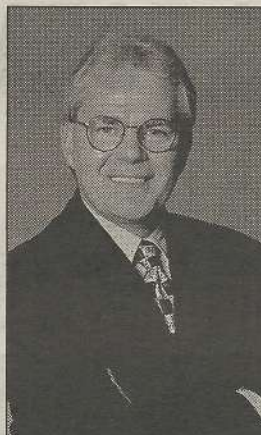
"The World Cup is essentially a global village and each country brings a culture, language, tradition and people. Each country gives music something different."

"Chris Murphy (international manager of INXS) was instrumental, the project was his idea, and he was the brains of the project."

"Gerry Caulfield was the artistic driver, a converted football fan. It all ran well, it was a good mix."

"Rhythm is an important part of the CD, the Brazilians have a conviction that rhythm is very important to them. They train that way, they are coached that way."

"The Africans and Brazilians play with rhythm in their game, whereas some northern European nations don't worry about it and I



think they should be aware of this fact.

"Timing is very important in football and in music."

Q) Band 'TISM' sung a song about you, your thoughts?

"It gave me a buzz, I like TISM and the whole idea of rock bands having commentary through their music."

"People couldn't work out where I was from and it was a problem for me. In retrospect it wasn't surprising that they came out with the song."

"I was a Hungarian with a Scottish name and they toyed with the whole dilemma."

(Song: What nationality is Les Murray?)

The World Cup is finally upon us and ABSW is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win 'Les Murray's World Game Fever - Collectors Edition'.

Our friends at Petrol Records have kindly made 5 CDs available to lucky readers who answer three easy questions and write in 25 words or less why 'football is the best sport on Earth'. Petrol Records is a new independent music company dedicated to bringing you seriously good music.

The Questions:

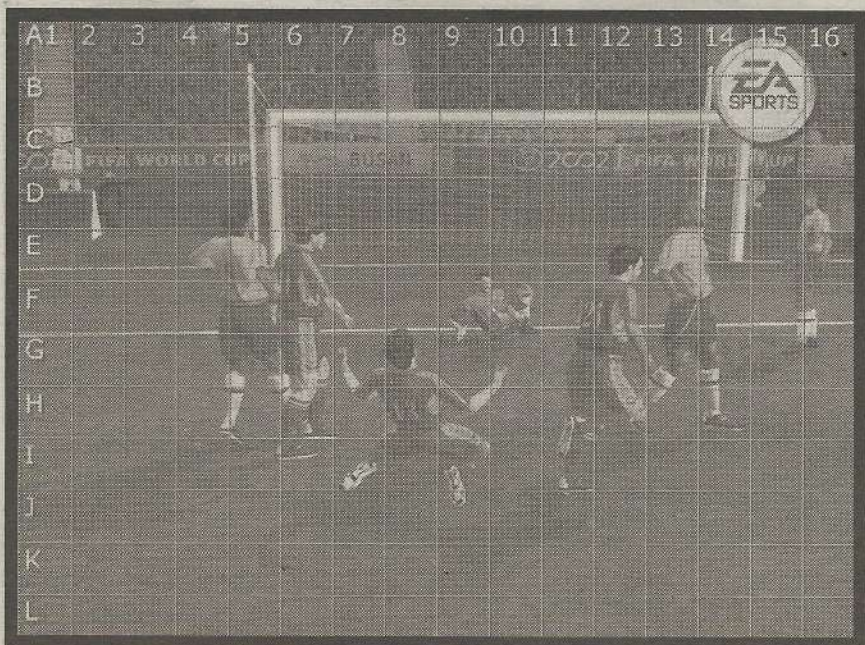
- 1) Which TV station does Les Murray work for?
- 2) How many World Cup matches is this station showing?
- 3) What nationality is Les Murray and which band sung a song about the same topic?

'Football is the best sport on Earth, because...' In 25 words or less.

This competition will run for four weeks, with one CD given out per week for the first three weeks and two CDs given away in the final week of the tournament.

Email your answers to soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au with title Les Murray

Winners will be published each week and notified by email.
Good Luck!



GO ALL THE WAY AND LIFT THE CUP YOURSELF WITH EA SPORTS

'Australia wins World Cup', make this headline a reality with our EA Sports giveaway. 5 lucky readers will have the opportunity to take home the brilliant World Cup 2002 game for PC and Playstation 2.

Each week of this World Cup, ABSW is giving away 1 PS2 game and 1 PC game to those readers who can 'spot the ball'.

Simply email us with the grid position that you think the ball is in and if correct, you will enter the draw to

become a weekly winner.

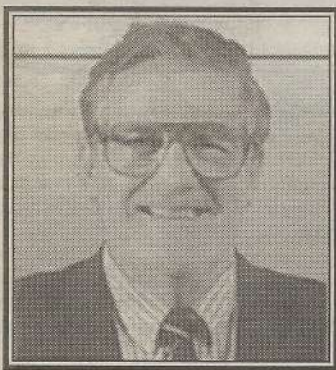
EA Sports are the market leader in sports video games and their realism and playability will ensure you undertake the World Cup journey many times over. With stunning graphics and excellent sound effects, this is the complete experience.

Send your emails to soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au with title EA Sports giveaway, you may enter only once per email address.

Good luck!



OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

STAN IS THE MAN FOR BIRMINGHAM

Stan Lazaridis was fondly known as "Stan The Man" when he played 71 National Soccer League games for West Adelaide Sharks over three memorable seasons.

Lazaridis first hit the headlines with the Australian Joeys squad in 1989. At the other end of the career scale he one of the three over-age players with the Olyroos during the 2000 Olympics.

He amassed 44 "A" internationals and 11 other games for the Socceroos, before "Stan The Man" poetically strutted his stuff with West Ham and Birmingham on the tough professional UK football stage.

West Adelaide sold Lazaridis to West Ham for \$650,000, before the flank attacker subsequently joined Birmingham in July of 1999, for a club record \$3 million.

He is currently back in Adelaide on a well-deserved long holiday with his Adelaide-born wife and 17-month old daughter Dior.

Lazaridis has a year remaining on his four-year contract with Birmingham, the club he helped gain promotion to the Premier League.

Ironically, it was Lazaridis, 30, who contributed with a successfully taken third penalty to boost Birmingham to the shoot-out showdown win over Millwall, which ensured promotion.

Ironically, because the Blues, who paid \$3.36 million for Lazaridis, had to fork out a further \$1.4million to West Ham to honour a promotion clause in his contract.

"That sounds a lot of money, but in the scheme of things its not a lot because

Birmingham City have just been given \$110 million for making the Premier League," Lazaridis said.

The Socceroo laments that a slice of the money paid to West Ham must go to an administrator instead of his former club, the now defunct, West Adelaide.

"It would have been nice if West Adelaide had still been around to get a share, but it was not to be," said Lazaridis, who has retained business interests and property in Adelaide.

As the only player with Premier League experience on Birmingham's books, Lazaridis sees no reason why he should not be retained for another shot at the English big time.

"I'm pretty sure Ill be staying with Birmingham," Lazaridis said. "I believe that my style of play is better suited to the Premier League than the first division because in the premiership you have more time on the ball.



Stan Lazaridis: Socceroo Star will be playing in the English Premier League next season.

"I worked hard to get to the Premier League, so why should I leave?" he queried.

After savouring four seasons in the top division with the Hammers, Lazaridis, naturally wants another taste of the heady atmosphere.

"One week you're up against Dennis Bergkamp and the next you're lining up against David Beckham at Old Trafford," he said.

Stan The Man - we fully understand where you're coming from!

YOUNG KEEPER JOINS FORCE

Adelaide City has drawn its two-edged sword by signing ex-Northern Ireland Under 16 international goalkeeper Ian Martin and former Eastern Pride defender Jonathon Buhagiar.

The new recruits are assisting the Premier League teams cause, while also staking their respective claims for NSL squad inclusion.

Martin and Buhagiar are both 21-year olds, who are eager to make their marks at both levels.

Martin came to Australia with his Irish parents when he was an infant and played his junior football in Western Australia.

He returned to Ireland as a teenager before rejoining his family in Perth.

Former Adelaide City goalkeeping great, Willy McNally coached Martin in Perth and unhesitatingly recommended his protegee to new Force coach Charley Villani.

Martin played for Northern Ireland club Coleraine before accepting a three-year apprenticeship with English Premier League club Newcastle United.

"I had one year as a professional with Newcastle, but that didn't work out and I went back to Coleraine to get a few games under my belt," Martin said.

Buhagiar is equally enthusiastic about joining Adelaide City. "Its a great club and I hope to be able to make the NSL squad," he said.



UP FOR THE CUP

Adelaide Galaxy and Playford Patriots qualified for the West End Federation Cup semi-finals by winning tough quarter-finals at Hindmarsh Stadium last Wednesday night.

Raiders and Enfield Falcons will battle for the other semi-final spot when they clash at Hindmarsh tomorrow night (Wednesday, June 5).

Galaxy and the Patriots will join the early qualifier Croydon Kings in the nitty gritty stage of the knockout competition to be played on Wednesday, June 26.

Premier League leader Galaxy stayed on track for a league and cup double by squeezing out Olympic FC 1-0 with an extra-time Golden Goal from super sub Dusty

McGregor.

The Galaxy task was magnified by the 70th minute red carding of key central defender Mark Yates, who was dismissed for dragging the shirt of John Spatharos as the little striker raced towards the box.

The keenly fought cup battle became a 10-a-side contest when Olympic goalkeeper Darien Bauer was sent off seconds before the regulation 90 minutes for up-ending McGregor outside the penalty area.

Stand-in custodian Stavros Parissos removed his number 13 shirt to don the goalkeepers jumper, but had no chance to stop a powerful slanting drive from McGregor in the 100th and final minute of action.

In the late quarterfinal, Playford Patriots clung tightly to the trophy it won last year by downing a determined Campbelltown Red Devils unit 2-1.

After losing his last two league games, Playford coach Alby Kidd had his veteran trio Mark Brazzale, Lucio DaRocha and George Haralbakis on the bench, preferring to field a youthful line-up.

Campbelltown hit the front five minutes into the second half when Sam Monterosso completed a task he threatened to accomplish on three previous occasions to hit the back of the net.

The earlier range finding efforts proved worthy as the Devils striker curled a wickedly unstoppable drive past David Miller in the Playford goal.

The Patriots levelled in the 72nd minute as Lee Robertson converted a penalty awarded for a foul on smart mover Shane Pearce.

With extra-time looming, it was Pearce who had the final say five minutes from time when he pounced on a rebound off Campbelltown goalkeeper Carmine Spagnoletti, who dived to save a header from former AIS graduate, Tom Radford.

Campbelltown staged a frantic attacking burst in the final five minutes, but Playford held firm.

An understandably elated Alby Kidd, said, "We did very well defensively and the lads showed a lot of character to come back after Sammy Monterosso scored with that terrific strike."



Michael Brooks: Scored for the Blue Eagles in the 3-0 win over the Patriots. Jim Tsekinis: Was one of the Galaxy's stand out players in their match against Adelaide City.



SA PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide Galaxy	12	10	1	1	30	5	31
Metro Stars	12	7	5	0	21	8	26
Adelaide Blue Eagles	12	7	3	2	34	9	24
Raiders	12	6	4	2	28	14	22
Playford Patriots	12	5	4	3	17	13	19
White City Warrior	12	4	4	4	18	13	16
Olympic FC	12	3	4	5	22	24	13
Para Hills Knights	12	3	4	5	14	26	13
Modbury	12	2	4	6	11	20	10
Campbelltown City	12	1	5	6	10	17	8
Adelaide City	12	2	2	8	21	34	8
Pirates	12	1	2	9	5	48	5

SA STATE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croydon Kings	12	9	1	2	28	9	28
Enfield City	12	7	3	2	39	16	24
Cumberland United	12	7	2	3	22	8	23
Noarlunga United	12	7	2	3	25	18	23
Adelaide Hills	12	6	3	3	15	8	21
Northern Demons	12	6	1	5	26	25	19
Port Pirie City	12	6	1	5	20	19	19
Adelaide Cobras	12	3	4	5	14	21	13
Salisbury United	12	3	3	6	18	25	12
Western Strikers	12	3	2	7	15	26	11
Panthers	12	1	3	8	15	31	6
Seaford	12	1	1	10	12	43	4

WEST END CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Adelaide Galaxy 1 (McGregor 100th minute Golden Goal in extra-time) Olympic FC 0. Best Galaxy: Pezos, Karitevlis, Graham; Olympic: S. Parissos, Tosh, Salapadisis.

Playford Patriots 2 (Robertson 72 penalty, Pearce 85) Campbelltown Red Devils 1 (Monterosso 50). Best Playford: Radford, Perre, Robertson; Campbelltown: Monterosso, Campbell, Brain.

ROUND 12

PREMIER LEAGUE

Modbury Jets 1 (McDonald) Para Hills Knights 1 (M. Moore). Best Modbury Jets: Van Dommelle, Kelly, White; Para Hills: Christakos, M. Moore, Cockerill.

Adelaide City 1 (Deegan) Galaxy 2 (Ferreira, Westervelt). Best - Adelaide City: Pellegrino, Budin, Sareceno; Galaxy: Kokkinopitis, Karitevlis, Tsekinis.

Blue Eagles 3 (Artone 2, Brooks) Playford Patriots 0. Best Blue Eagles: Artone, Zito, Brooks; Playford Patriots: Staltari, Miller, Perre.

MetroStars 1 (R. Moore) Campbelltown City 0. Best MetroStars: D. Menechella, R. Moore, Scalzi; Campbelltown: Parry, Stavridis, Allen.

Pirates 0 Raiders 4 (Widera 2, Brailo, Trimboli). Best Pirates: Mechis, Lagana, Koufalias; Raiders: J. Barbaro, Cerracchio, Widera.

Olympic FC 2 (Salapadisis, Tosh) White City Woodville 2 (Beltrame 2). Best Olympic: Tosh, Lennon, S. Parissos; White City: Beltrame, Petrov, Leane.

STATE LEAGUE

Salisbury Berries 2 (Deeley, Blackwood) Panthers 2 (S. Huybregts 2). Best Salisbury: Blackwood, Deeley, Arruzollo; Panthers: Thompson, Rideout, Burke.

Cumberland Foxes 0 Croydon Kings 1 (S. Pirone). Best Cumberland: Gagliardi, Schmidt, Donk; Croydon Kings: Christison, Charnstrom, Richardson.

Enfield Falcons 4 (Mulady 2, Carter, Farncombe) Northern Demons 0. Best Enfield Falcons: Paparella, Mulady, Carter; Northern Demons: Fasciano, C. Alagich, Sales.

Seaford Surfers 0 Noarlunga Bulldogs 1 (Forster). Best Seaford: Pearce, Jurado, Lewandowski; Noarlunga: Fox, Marsh, Vette.

Port Pirie City 2 (Edmundson, Hume) Western Strikers 1 (D. Paris). Best Port Pirie City: Edmundson, Razial, DeGioia; Western Strikers: Agalidis, Cecere, D. Paris.

Cobras 1 (Anastasiou) Hills Hawks 0. Best Cobras: Stamatelopoulou, Pontikinis, L. Skoumbros; Hills Hawks: Rodriguez, Clarke, Butler.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Interim Leader - following the resignation of President and CEO, the Board appointed Neil Greig as new President and CEO until the annual meeting of shareholders on Wednesday 26th June.

Neil Greig is no stranger to local soccer, known locally to junior and senior soccer clubs, after being involved with the Wolves since 1981.

A long term chairman is expected to be elected at the shareholders meeting and a new CEO needs to be appointed shortly after. According to Greig the long-term future of the club is not as bleak as has been made out.

South Coast soccer wants the Wolves to do well in the NSL and it is of vital importance to create a bond of communication to get Illawarra soccer folks involved, win their support in great numbers is a target the club should be concentrating on.

Illawarra Soccer Round 8 Reviews - Surprise results on the weekend of 25/5 affected changes at the top end. Port Kembla dropped 2 spots after being defeated 1-0 by lower placed Balgownie; Kemblawarra overpowered Picton 5-2 who dropped one place. Other results were as predicted, a total of 19 goals were scored in 6 matches.

1st is still Lysaghts on 17 points - confirming their challenge to achieve title honours.

2nd is Kemblawarra on 16 points, losing key player Jose Fernandez for this season after suffering a badly broken leg involving both the tibia and fibula. They moved up one spot.

3rd is Picton Rangers on 14 points, dropping one place and losing 2 players due to send-offs, paying the penalty by losing heavily.

4th Coniston Lions, moved up 2 places, on 14 points equal with third place, have recovered well lately.

5th Cringila Lions, also 14 points moved up two spots with two clubs ahead, did very well after a poor start earlier.

6th Port Kembla on 12 points, going down 2 spots, not a position often encountered by this side.

7th Wollongong Olympic on 11 points, dropped 2 places, not consistent enough to move higher.

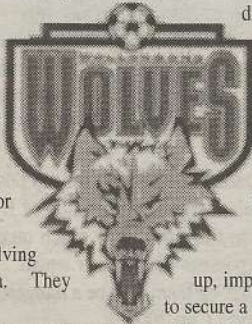
8th Balgownie Rangers on 9 points, moved up 1 spo, consolidating a safe position in the competition.

9th Wests Illawarra on 9 points, moved 2 places up, important win in the last game to secure a safe spot.

10th Bulli on 6 points, dropped 2 spots, continues to slide down the table.

11th Kiama on 6 points, dropped 1 place, battling to avoid relegation, struggling for every point.

12th Tarrawanna on 5 points, still last, needs to win games to survive.



Reserve Grade Standings

Top teams are Lysaght on 19 points, Balgownie 16, Tarrawanna 15, Olympic 14, Bulli also 14 points.

Youth Grade Standings

Leading teams - Bulli 17 points, Coniston Lions 16, Balgownie 15, Cringila Lions 15, Lysaght 14 points.

Conference League at Round 8

The top four teams kept their spots - Dapto on 22 points face 2nd placed Albion Park WE on 22, Berkeley 17 and Highlands on 16 points. Four other teams follow closely with only three and four points adrift, those sides facing these leading teams in the next few rounds may have to show their form.

In Reserve Grade - Leading sides are Dapto, Berkeley, Fernhill and Albion Park WE.

In Youth Grade - the front teams are at present Woonona, Barbs, Dapto and Fernhill.



ABSW CORRESPONDENTS FOR WORLD CUP 2002



1 THE VOICE – COLIN TURNER



BEHIND THE WORLD CUP MICRO- PHONE

Friday the 31st of May was a strange day for me. It started pretty normal, but as the hands of the clock moved towards 7pm and the opening ceremony of this the 17th World Cup, the Andrine started to flow. There was and always will be a few nerves.

There is no commentator in the world who takes their job lightly, when you realise that you are going to be the eyes of your listeners over the next 30 days it's a big task.

Of course you have done all the preparation for months, the teams how they got there, the players, who they are, and all the little details that a commentators needs when the

action on the park stops for a second or two.

On television, it's a little easier as you can allow the picture to tell the story, a shot of the injured player, the dug out where the coach is ranting and raving at his players, or some shots of the crowds of supporters be-decked in their team colours.

On radio you have to talk, and that is when all the preparation work pays off.

When the speeches from the president of South Korea Kim Dea-Jung and the Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi were finished and the bad behaviour of some people in the crowd who booed the president of FIFA, had died away, the opening game had all the ingredients to get what could be a great and exciting world cup under way.

Having the correct pronunciation of all the players is the first big problem for a commentator and then you must have the ability to recognise instantly the players. They are the first two major factors in commentating.

The next is to have a sharp eye as to what the plans are for both managers, to read the game plan and see how it develops. Are the Senegal players going to freeze on the big occasion?

Here they are involved in the opening game of the World

Cup, and having to face the World Cup holders. All of that would be pretty hard, but to then understand that most of the people you are playing against are your friends or in some cases your former team mates, which is a big test.

Well Senegal came through all those testing moments, and scored the first of what could be some shock results from this tournament. You will no doubt read all about the details of that game on the other pages here.

Let me just say that the French team in that opening game were a shadow of the team that won the last World Cup in France in 1998.

If I was to put forward one reason, it was the absence of the "Little General" Didier Deschamps. He captained the French side through the last world cup on the park, he drove his players forward, he was right beside them when the going was tough, (and it was the against the Italians, the French were behind until the last minutes) Deschamps drove the French on.

On Friday night against Senegal, Marcel Desailly tried to do it all himself. Did any of you see him shout and encourage the players around him?

Maybe he realised that he was played the part of two men as Frank Leboeuf was struggling in the middle, was slow, and was being passed by the Senegalese played surging forward.

The goal by Pepe Bouda Djop, (pronounced "Jopp") was another disaster for Fabian Bartz and his French defenders.

To be very honest, this World Cup needed a start like this. The title holders and hot favourites defeated by the World Cup newcomers. A great story and now ever little team left in the competition thinks that they have a chance against the big boys.

For the Irish on Saturday a 1-1 draw against Cameroon was also the result of another mountain to climb. They had been in the eye of the storm all week after manager Mick McCarthy had fired his captain and star player Roy Keane and sent him home.

It divided the Irish nation for about 24 hours which was time enough for the country to realise that "One swallow never made a Summer," and one disgruntled player was not the whole team.

Roy Keane is a law unto himself, and a lot of people had forgotten good player that he might, be the Irish qualified for the finals from a group that contained Portugal and Holland, two top teams in Europe and they did that more often with the presents of the disgruntled Keane.

The Matt Holland goal that scored the equaliser for Ireland against Cameroon will be one of the goals of the tournament. It certainly will be the goal for Irish followers for years to come, they will remember it for as long as they forget who Roy Keane was.

This World Cup will no doubt have a few more interesting twists and turns before the fat lady sings.

2 THE PLAYER – CRAIG FOSTER



A sensational start to a wonderful month of football, I'm sure you'll agree. I could never have picked Senegal to beat the world champs, but what a fantastic way to open the tournament, with a spirited and competent game by the debutants, and what about the celebra-

tions in Senegal with the President holding a ball on the back of the cavalcade?

Doesn't that just encapsulate everything the world cup represents? The triumph of small against big, new against established really brought to life the beauty of the peoples game, where tactics count as much as skill, and size nor experience are a guarantee of success.

Let's not forget though, that the Senegalese all play in the French league, a very high standard, they're class footballers, much better than, say, the Saudis who all play domestically. What about that game?

A stroke of luck for the Germans to build confidence early, particularly Klose and Jancker in their first world cups on the score sheet early, but the Saudis were an embarrassment, their defending comical. I

was pleased to see Argentina play reasonably well, looking the most likely team thus far to break down a defensive team, something England and France looked devoid of the means to achieve.

Nigeria, though, were disappointing in their outlook, why defend in numbers so early in the game, giving so much respect to Argentina? That's OK if it frustrates the opposition, but if they score as did Argentina and England (courtesy of some "blind freddy" goal-keeping by Hedman), the tactics become a millstone as you must change formation and tempo. I'm sure Nigeria will feel they never gave themselves a chance to win the game, and they have themselves to blame.

Why, with Okocha, Ogebeche and Kanu, do you decide to defend with 9 men?

That's been a feature for me so far, thankfully by and large most teams with a defensive mindset have conceded a goal and invariably been drawn out in the second half. Sweden, South Africa, and Slovenia all found their tactics wanting, and Paraguay tried to close the game far too early and lost 2 points because of it.

Apart from the smothering tactics of Senegal, the remaining games have all been about the team prepared to attack and, let's face it, most teams lack an El Hadj Diouf up front!

How about those goals! The Paraguay free kick, the precision set pieces from Veron to Batistuta, the mag-

ical pass from De Pedro to Valeron, the Rodriguez volley, and the skill of Eto'o to set up Mbomba. World class goals all, running the full range between classic long range strikes and clever build up, beautiful to see.

Veron has been the highlight for me so far, rarely has a player been so effective with the touches he has in a game, every time he touched the ball he chose the right option, alternating with his wonderful range of passing between short and long, quick and slow.

How difficult he must be to mark in that mood, go tight and he will play around you, step off and he will look up and spray majestic passes all over the field. Had Ortega not been so over indulgent and wasteful around the box Argentina should have punished the Nigerians much earlier.



Senegal caused the major upset by defeating France 1-0 in the opening match.

A final word for the Irish, a poor first half probably due to both a committed and sometimes brilliant Cameroon side, and the recent "Keanegate" affair, but a superb comeback with skill, nerve and strength in the second half to gain a priceless point, and send a message to the group that the Irish spirit is alive and well.

A wonderful start, see you next week.

3 THE FRENCH CONNECTION - ALAIN BARATAUD



NO RESPECT FOR THE WORLD CHAMPION

After an entertaining opening ceremony it was very exciting to see France, the best team in the world, take on Senegal in the first game of the 17th World Cup championship.

Senegal 1 - France 0. What a disappointment.

With a magnificent start from Senegal, African fireworks lit up the sky of Seoul as France and all their stars fell to the floor.

Revenge perhaps, as ironically speaking, Senegal is a French colony though the African nation's coach is French and all except two of their squad have been adopted to play in the French league.

What happened to the world champions? It was undoubtedly the worst performance in six years from

the French side. The French declare unanimously - they miss Zinedine Zidane; miss his inspiration, his genius. Nobody can replace Zizou but the team should play the game as they've played many times before and stop mucking around.

Forget Djorkaeff. Obvious to all now, he is not a playmaker and proved this with his poor performance. We may not see him run again during this tournament - especially if France goes home after the first round. Roger Lemerre has finally seen his limit as well as Frank Leboeuf's who was too slow for the brilliant El Hadi Diouf.

Lizarazu said, "We've been unlucky today but very naive at the back and at this level, any mistake and you pay the consequence."

It's time for France to make some changes in their defence. It will be good to see Thuram, the best defender in the world, as a sweeper and Candela on the right side but more important, Zidane has to be back in the starting line up or France won't see the second round.

Said Roger Lemerre, "Now the situation is very clear. We have no choice but to win our last two

games to have a little chance to go to the second round."

Zidane has played 27 official games (Euro and World Cup) and never lost a game. The team has to be lead, guided and inspired by him and they then may have a chance against Uruguay - a game which no doubt, will be very tough and difficult. France needs the three points and nothing else, as Uruguay will give their all. Like France, Recoba and Montero can't afford a draw or lose if Uruguay want to reach the second round. This game is going to be a dramatic movie for one of these teams. "I will do everything to be ready to play against Uruguay to help my team and I'm really excited to play. I miss the game.", exclaimed Zidane.

Senegal and Denmark will fight for top position in the group. The advantage is on the side of Denmark who has proved to the world how much quality and seriousness they possess within their squad and who, as a strong team, can be a dangerous contender for the World Cup 2002.

Can Senegal repeat their strong performance against the solid and enthusiastic Danish? They were lucky against France but football is just a game full of surprises.

Its possible, the French team lead by the maestro Zidane, can finish in the two top places within the

group. France has played the finest football in the world since 1998 and to bring the cup back for the second time will return the French their pride after their disastrous game on Friday against Senegal.

Remember, Argentina lead by Maradona in 1990 lost 1-0 against Cameroon in the opening game and still managed to reach the final to play Germany in the World Cup!

Saturday was a beautiful day for football with lots of goals scored in three different games. Special mention goes to the lightning strike from the Uruguayan player Rodriguez, who scored the best goal so far of this tournament.

Unforgettable as well was the strong performance of the German side, scoring eight goals against the poor team of Saudi Arabia who had an absolute nightmare of a game.

Cameroon versus Ireland was a very good game, played with two different styles. Each team had their good half time with Cameroon opening the score in the first and the Irish equalizing in the second. To draw was a fair result for both teams. Ireland and Cameroon can also finish top of the group if they beat the German side but at this stage, Germany feels very confident after their brilliant performance.



ABSW CORRESPONDENTS FOR WORLD CUP 2002



4 THE LEGEND - RALE RASIC



Rale Rasic

FOOTBALL SOLUTION TO A 600 YEAR PROBLEM

He is the only coach in this country who knows what it is like to have a team at a World Cup.

Rale Rasic, Football Manager of Marconi Stallions talks about the first week of a so far thrilling World Cup series.

What a remarkable Opening Ceremony for the

2002 Korea-Japan World Cup.

While it had all the hallmarks of the Korean and Japanese flair, elegance and sophistication, this was a global ceremony, something that stood for peace and understanding around the world, not just something that was intended to glorify the co-host nations.

It started with a great deal of tension for FIFA. Amid all the political turmoil surrounding the embattled President, Sepp Blatter, and the scandal relating to alleged bribes and financial fraud and mismanagement, something incredible occurred.

President Blatter, during his speech, ask for "Fair Play", something that FIFA proudly promotes on the sporting field.

The joint leaders of the two Asian host nations, Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and Japanese

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, created a history-making feat by raising their hands together and showing the world that sport can pave the way for something that could not be achieved outside the sporting arena.

Enough politics, the World Cup has begun, and you had to feel for the reigning champions, France, in the opening game.

Tension is the name of the game in the tournament opener. One has to admire the way the players deal with that tension in the countdown to the kick-off. Its always harder for the reigning champion, that always plays the first game. It's rarely a game between two teams of equal ability. As such, the approach to the game was always going to be easier for Senegal.

On this particular occasion, however the elegant Senegal showed extraordinary commitment and gallantry to produce one of the greatest upsets in the history of the World Cup.

In the past the Africans were not regarded as

masters of soaking up pressure but this time they were masters all over the field and never allowed France its moment of glory.

Nothing could promote better unknown Senegal to the global community of 6 billion people than victory over the current world champions.

The French coach, Bruno Metsu, mapped out the approach to perfection. one wonders how people he would be today in Senegal compared to his native France.

The French players were always much slower, especially in defence, while Senegal performed miracles all over the field.

Their goalkeeper, Tony Sylva, was easily the man-of-the-match.

The great Pele made the comment that Senegal was the worst team in the tournament. I sure that he will d a bit of re-thinking after Senegal's extraordinary performance.

5 THE KAT PETER KATHOLOS



Peter Katholos

KAT'S CORNER

What a feast of football we are experiencing and it has just started! The quality of football being delivered by the players is magnificent, and some of the results are absolutely amazing. Who is

Senegal?

I never heard of them yet they can beat the world champions France and at times outplay them. This is the beauty of football.

There is eleven players out there in both sides and reputations mean nothing on the day, it's whoever wants it the most and in France's case they were not good enough. Without their creative players Zidane & Pires, France is pretty ordinary and unless Zidane gets on the park, France is going to do it tough to qualify through the first round, as Denmark are a good outfit and Uruguay will be no pushover.

Looking at the other games played so far I was

impressed by Argentina, Spain and England. Argentina although they only won by the odd goal showed the class and why they are one of the favourites. Their short sharp passing and their immaculate ball control was a feature and their attacking players being able to beat their first opponent with individual flair, this is the key to this world cup. A note for you expert coaches in Australia you must ENCOURAGE THE INDIVIDUAL.

With Veron the playmaker running the show and with Batistuta hungry, they looked impressive. England also looked good and players to impress were Vassell, Cole, Campbell, Beckham, (what about a bit of hair spray to keep that hair do in place) they have a good squad of players. Spain were also a surprise, again I was impressed with their short, sharp passing game and ball control.

What about the performance of Saudi Arabia against Germany. That 8-0 loss is an embarrassment for any country and I wonder if Olympic Sharks were there, I bet they would have performed a lot better.

There has been talk about the ball and players

complaining! what a load of rubbish

The ball is the same for everybody and they have had weeks of preparation using these balls and plenty of time to get accustomed to it. Stop winging boys and just play. The ball has been designed to encourage those long range spectacular shots and goals that make the game attractive due to its acceleration in flight and applaud FIFA for its forward thinking it is the best ball in the world. Just a thought, do you think teams will be allowed to use this ball in Australia? or the officials will look at it and say THIS BALL IS NOT APPROVED BY THE FEDERATION, sorry can't use it. What a load of crap, I don't think that happens anywhere else in the world and teams can pick and choose whatever ball they like to play with as long it is FIFA approved. More on this topic in forthcoming issues.

Watching the coverage on T.V. it's just fantastic with the SBS coverage loaded with experience, and channel nine very good for a first timer and getting better. One thing as constructive criticism to both on the expert commentators.

Viewers out there want an opinion from the expert commentators just like Johnny Warren not "sitting on the fence" and being diplomatic. Also when making expert comments they should be just that, expert comments; let's look at this example from one of our experts: "Scholes today

was solid, but not outstanding "on the next breath he says" Scholes did not have any shots at goal today, he was disappointing", make up your mind please and then he tells us "Vasell was outstanding today and Michael Owen was quiet as he did not get the service" for crying out loud they are both strikers what do you mean? one player received service and the other one was sabotaged? Don't beat around the bush just tell us how you see it in the midfield and say it was not creative enough.

Please guys for the viewers out there that know their soccer you look like a monkey!

Please respect people's intelligence and don't assume they won't pick it up.

Anyway come to think of it how does one qualify to become a football expert?

I hope that presentation and slick talking is not the only criteria as reading a game and analysing and putting your thoughts into words should be the most important criteria and of course you cant do that unless you have the knowledge and experience

Good luck guys, we will all be listening

Can't wait to see the Italians strut their stuff, and what about the goal by Uruguay. Is this the goal of the tournament?

See ya next week!

6 THE GUVNOR - KELLY CROSS



Kelly Cross

YOUTH COACHING - THE FRENCH PHILOSOPHY

When the French Football Federation looked at youth development in the 70s, they found a certain number of faults in young players when they arrived at the 'centres of formation' at 16 years of age.

They decided that it wouldn't be possible to fix these problems unless they designed a program of development for youngsters before their arrival at the centres.

That's where the 'pre-formation' came in. The 'preformation' (13-15 years) constitutes a period that should be specially reserved for the learning of tech-

nique.

A book is available (in French) 'Preformation at the National Football Institute', which outlines not only the basics of the program but also the philosophy behind it.

The preface to the book is written by then National Technical Director, Gerard Houllier, who states that when teaching football to youngsters 'it is necessary to obey the rules of child education.' This is a key point for all junior coaches.

'You must begin at the beginning,' he continues. 'The beginning, in football, is to give youngsters the means to master the ball. Mastery can mean only one thing: technique.'

At the end of the preface, Houllier indicates the value of the work and ideas contained in the book: 'we are convinced that the evolution of our football is written out in this document.'

When we look at France's rise to become the current World and European Champions, we must also consider the value of such a program of development

work.

Below are some quotes from the book which might be of interest to coaches:

- The program was put in place to 'better prepare the elite players of the future,' and to 'focus training on technical aspects, neglected in recent years, but indispensable to all players and especially players at the highest level.'

- They also wanted to 'profit from this golden age for acquiring motor skills in order to give a better foundation for working at all the basics.'

- 'We work more on tactics at the individual or small-group level rather than team play or team strategies...our approach is not to shape or prepare a team for the game at the weekend, but to develop individuals through a systematic program of work.'

- 'The volume of technical practice must be the main element of training throughout the whole year.'

- 'Coaches of younger age-groups are too often focussed on the result at the weekend, which shapes their team training.'

- 'Good individual technique gives a player on matchday a mastery of the game, confidence, creativity, goals and joy...'

- Christian Damiano's program included EVERY DAY '10 minutes' juggling, 10 minutes' heading at the start of the session, and 5 minutes' work on the weaker foot at the end of the session.'

The book also gives advice to coaches of this age-group:

- Avoid non-stop shouting from the start to the end of the game or training session.
- Avoid training them like seniors.
- Avoid making them play like seniors.
- Don't work for too long on the same drill or game.
- Avoid criticising the player in front of the group.
- Avoid sessions that are inappropriate to their age or level.

(The book 'La Preformation a L'I.N.F. - 13-15 ans.' was conceived by Gerard Houllier and produced by Christian Damiano, assisted by Didier Braun, Jacques Crevoisier, Claude Dusseau, Aime Jacquet and Andre Merelle. It is published by the Federation Francaise de Football.)





GROUP A

BY ALAIN BARATAUD



BIG PAPA DIOP SINKS WORLD CHAMPS

FRANCE

SENEGAL

0

1

Before the World Cup, Senegal had one wish – to play the World Champions. This dream came true in December, the draw gave the African side the opening game of the competition against France.

Nobody thought for one minute they could upset the French apart from coach, Roger Lemerre, who repeatedly told his players Senegal is a very strong squad who all play in France and are lead by a French coach.

Before the game, the absence of one man, Zinedine Zidane overshadowed the opening ceremony. All know how important he is for the French organisation.

The game began with Djorkaeff as playmaker – the wrong choice after his disastrous game. Why leave Johan Micoud, a natural playmaker, on the bench and start with an unprepared and unfit player.

The first 25 minutes saw France attempt to keep possession of the ball and had a great chance to open the score when Trezeguet hit the post in the 23rd minute but a few minutes later, Djorkaeff managed to lose the ball midfield with Diouf setting up a nice ball back to Diop who scored the first goal of the competition.

**Half-time:
Senegal 1, France 0**

In the second half the French fought hard to equalize the score but were very badly organized and missed their only chance with Thierry Henry as he lobbed the ball, missed the net and hit the cross bar. It was their one and only good opportunity proving the poor performance of the World Champions.

Roger Lemerre substituted Djorkaeff for Dugarry and Wiltord with Cisse too

late during the game, leaving France to play without inspiration and unsurprisingly lost the game against the Africans, now considered a possible outsider of this group. France has a new game – try to win the final two games and the right to play in the second round.

Man of the match, El Hagi Diouf, was a virus for the French defence especially Frank Leboeuf whose was too slow and always in the wrong position.

After the French disaster, only one player survived, and that was Lizarazu who never let go and kept fighting to the end.

Senegal coach, Bruno Metsu, said "Today, I am maybe not the best coach in the world – but I'm not the worst."

Roger Lemerre analysed the game, "My team had a bad day. I made a few mistakes but my players are World Champions and even with the absence

of Pires and Zidane they need to take responsibility for their game. For the next games there will be a few changes in the starting lineup. Now we are in a bad situation which worries me and hope-

fully my team will have a positive reaction against Uruguay because if we play again like today we'll begin our holidays early."



Thierry Henry tries to get on the outside of a Senegal opponent.

TOMASSON DOUBLE SINKS URUGUAY

URUGUAY

DENMARK

1

2



Pablo Garcia of Uruguay battles for the ball with Martin Laursen.

We witnessed some quality football when the very well organized and strong Danish team came up against the talented Uruguay squad – the South American technique versus the enthusiastic Danes.

The goal of the World Cup?

A good beginning from both sides that looked like the game would end in a draw, but at half time, Denmark lead by a late goal in the 45th minute by Tomasson.

Uruguay came back with a new fighting tactic at the start of the 2nd half and tried to

score as quick as possible. On 47th minute from a Recoba corner to the second post, Pablo Garcia served Rodriguez on his left and Rodriguez scored an absolutely amazing volley. Sorensen, the Danish keeper, had no choice but to watch the ball fly into his net.

At this part of the game, Uruguay was very well organized around Pablo Montero and the brilliant Recoba. When the South American coach substituted Recoba, the Danes took control of the game and Tomasson scored his second and the final goal to give victory to his country.

Ten minutes to go and losing 2 – 1, Uruguay tried to come back into the game but it was too late.

Good results for Denmark who before the tournament believed they were fighting for the second spot in this Group A and now look the favourite, put France in a very embarrassing situation.

Coach Victor Pua said after the game, "Denmark deserves his victory. We played a good game today but we lost and still have a chance to go to the second round."

Coach Morten Olsen also said, "In the beginning of the game, we were nervous. After half an hour we started to play football and felt comfortable in the game moving along in a good tempo. After this important game, I'm very happy with this win but for me France is still the favourite of Group A."



Jon Dohl Tomasson celebrates his first goal against Uruguay.



GROUP B

BY DANIEL KUZIW



Fortune crowns South Africa comeback

PARAGUAY

2

SOUTH AFRICA

2

BUSAN

Manchester United's Quinton Fortune scored a stoppage-time penalty to earn South Africa a point against Paraguay in the Asiad Stadium.

Roque Santa Cruz and Francisco Arce had put Paraguay 2-0 up after 55 minutes before Estanislao Struway scored an own goal and then as the stadium clock showed 90 minutes had elapsed, Fortune converted his penalty.

Both countries had controversially changed coaches in the months leading up to the World Cup, with former Italy boss Cesare Maldini taking over at Paraguay and Jomo Sono being appointed South Africa manager.

Santa Cruz caused South Africa problems from the first whistle of the Group B game and he might have had a penalty in the opening seconds when he went down under a challenge from goalkeeper Andre Arendse.

After surviving this scare, South Africa managed the first shot in anger when MacBeth Sibaya fired narrowly wide from all of 35 yards.

But it was Arendse who was the busier of the two keepers and he did well to touch Arce's dipping 25-yard free-kick over his crossbar.

Arce's right foot was a potent weapon for Paraguay and one corner caused mayhem in the six-yard area before the ball somehow finished up in Arendse's hands.

Santa Cruz managed his first effort on target with a strong header which was parried by Arendse.

It came as little surprise that when Paraguay opened the scoring on 39 minutes it was down to a combination of Santa Cruz and Arce.

Arce hit a deep free-kick to the back post, which beat Arendse, and Santa Cruz came steaming into the six-yard box to beat team-mate Celso Ayala to

the header and score his tenth goal on his 24th international appearance.

Santa Cruz might have had a second three minutes later only for Arendse to touch his powerful header over the top.

South Africa came close to equalising within 40 seconds of the start of the second half. Fortune knocked on MacDonald Mukasi's cross to Sibusiso Zuma whose bicycle kick was saved by Ricardo Tavaralli, deputising for the suspended Jose Luis Chilavert, at the second attempt.

Paraguay captain Carlos Gamarra then fired just wide before South Africa felt they should have had a penalty for handball against Arce.

Their sense of injustice was heightened when on 55 minutes Arce scored with a perfectly-executed free-kick from the left-hand side of the area, which would have done David Beckham proud.

To their credit South Africa battled back and their pressure was rewarded

on 63 minutes when Teboho Mokoena's shot from inside the D was deflected home off the unfortunate Struway.

They completed their comeback

when in the final seconds Tavaralli was adjudged to have brought down Zuma in the area and in the first minute of stoppage time Fortune fired home the spot-kick.



Julio Caceres challenges George Koumantarakis of South Africa.

Spain overcome Slovenia in opening game win

SPAIN

3

SLOVENIA

1

JEONJU

Perennial World Cup under-achievers Spain were made to sweat before eventually pulling away for a 3-1 victory over tournament debutants Slovenia here on Sunday.

Prolific Spanish striker Raul scored in the 44th minute while midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron put the Spaniards two up with a 74th-minute strike.

But the Slovenians struck back and seven minutes later substitute Sebastjan Cimirotic recorded the tiny mountainous nation's first World Cup goal to pull his side back into the Group B match. When substitute Milenko Acimovic burst into the penalty area minutes later he went down under the challenge from experienced defender Miguel Angel Nadal but his claims for reward were waved away by the referee.

The Slovenians were therefore furious when Fernando Morientes earned a spot-kick for a seemingly soft challenge by Sasa Gajser three minutes later.

Veteran Fernando Hierro stroked the penalty past Slovenian goalkeeper Marko Simeunovic to see Spain on the

way to what they hope will be a performance that banishes memories of so many poor World Cup displays.

Raul's 26th international goal put him level with the now-retired Emilio Butragueno in the all-time Spanish goalscoring list, but captain Hierro still leads them and took his haul to 28 goals with the penalty.

Luis Enrique created Raul's goal as he battled through Slovenian defenders before pushing the ball to the striker, whose dummy shook off his marker, leaving him free to slot the ball under Simeunovic as the first half ground to an end.

But Spain had failed to convert their first-half domination into a substantial lead and Slovenia had threatened to equalise until Valeron's goal, his first for his country.

Camacho said ending Spain's winless record in opening World Cup matches going back half a century was a huge weight off his shoulders.

His side had another solid chance to score from Diego Tristan's powerful second-half drive but it was pushed away by Simeunovic.

And Morientes wasted a superb opportunity to score just after being brought on in place of Diego Tristan.

Spain had almost conceded an goal in the opening minutes when Slovenia's best-known player Zlatko Zahovic curled in the first corner of the match and Aleksander Knavs' close-range header forced a reflex save from goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Raul then headed straight at Simeunovic from a cross floated in by Javier de Pedro.

De Pedro caused Slovenia problems as he bent a free-kick over the Slovenian wall midway through the first half. He came even closer to finding the net from another free-kick within minutes.

But the Slovenians had chances too, with Benfica star Zahovic shooting weakly at Real Madrid keeper Casillas and Zeljko Milinovic heading narrowly over the bar from another corner struck sweetly by Zahovic.

Spain went top of their group and now face Paraguay on Friday and South Africa on June 12



Spain's Nadal slides in on Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic.



WORLD CUP 2002 *Opening Rounds*



FRANCE — SENEGAL GROUP A



URUGUAY — DENMARK GROUP A



PARAGUAY — SOUTH AFRICA GROUP B



SPAIN — SLOVENIA GROUP B





World Cup Gallery



GERMANY — SAUDI ARABIA GROUP E



IRELAND — CAMEROON GROUP E



ARGENTINA — NIGERIA GROUP F



ENGLAND — SWEDEN GROUP F





GROUP E

BY BEN MORING



GERMANY KLOSE TO PERFECT IN SAPPORO

GERMANY	8
SAUDI ARABIA	0

SAPPORO

Germany kick-started its World Cup campaign with an emphatic 8-0 drubbing of three-time Asian Cup winners Saudi Arabia in Sapporo, the first indoor arena to be used at a World Cup Finals tournament.

Miroslav Klose became an instant hero and shot to the lead of the goal-scoring chart with a fine headed hat trick, the first since Gabriel Batistuta scored three against Jamaica in 1998.

The impressive and talented Michael Ballack and powerful target-man Carsten Jancker also scored in a dominant first half display in the 40th and 46th minutes, respectively.

Thomas Linke and Bernd Schneider both notched maiden strikes for Germany in the second half, along with substitute Oliver Bierhoff who drilled a low shot past Saudi keeper Mohammed Al Deayea from 35 yards, six from

time.

But these three second half goals came after Klose had netted his ninth, tenth and eleventh international strikes for his country.

The first, in truth, was always coming and the only surprise was that it took Germany 20 minutes to open the scoring. Jancker was superb up front and his size and power was making a mockery of the Saudi defence.

Tottenham's Christian Ziege was lively down the left flank and his cross found a stooping Klose to head home powerfully from close range, Jancker just failing to connect with an overhead kick in the build-up.

The second came 5 minutes later, this time it was the livewire Ballack who produced a pin-point cross, following a great left wing interchange with the scorer, whose attacking header hit the same part of the net as the first.

A great hat trick was completed after 70 minutes, another wide cross, and another headed goal. This time the ball bounced off the turf and high into the left side of the net. Klose was then substituted to warm applause soon after.

Ballack capped off a masterful performance with yet another headed goal in the 40th minute, Schneider with the final delivery.

Jancker threatened all half and his moment of celebration arrived in first half stoppage time, when he swept home a Klose flick from around 8 yards.

Linke netted in the 73rd minute, his first international goal in 35 matches, the side's sixth of the night and the fifth that arrived courtesy of a German head. Ziege whipped in another telling cross, this time from a corner and the scorer rose high above two defenders to ram home Germany's aerial dominance.

Oliver Bierhoff seemed unimpressed by sitting on the bench, but made amends and stabbed a powerful left-

footed effort past a despairing Al Deayea, the strike from at least 35 yards following another Ballack through ball.

Schneider made it a gr-eight night for his team by curling a stoppage time free kick over the Saudi wall and into the top right corner of the net.

Germany were quite simply a class above their opposition and so dominant was the performance that they had 25 shots to the Saudi's 3 after 88 minutes.

The hapless Saudi players content to

let their more pedigreed rivals string passes together with ease and try in vain to hit the Germans on the counter through easily their best player and captain, Sami Al Jaber.

Germany start the tournament in confident mood then, but this squad does not have the same kind of stars that have electrified previous World Cups and so time will tell exactly how far they will go against stronger opposition.



Germany's Carsten Jancker clashes with Saudi player Sulaiman Zubrowami.

IRELAND STILL KEANE FOR GLORY WITHOUT ROY

IRELAND	1
CAMEROON	1

NIIGATA

The Japan leg of the World Cup kicked-off with Cameroon and Ireland fighting out a tense draw in Niigata. A game of two-halves, Cameroon starting well opening the scoring in the 39th minute through Patrick Mboma, but Ireland turned the tables and a spectacular long range strike from Ipswich Town's Matt Holland squared the ledger in the 52nd minute.

Watched by colourful fans on both sides, the Indomitable Lions looked far and away the better side in the first half. However, Mick McCarthy's team, without sent home captain Roy Keane, recovered bravely after the interval and drew level early in the second half.

A cautious start by both teams produced little in the opening minutes, until Ireland's Matt Holland dived in hard at Marc-Vivien Foe, getting a piece of the ball but more of the Cameroon midfielder's right knee in the 7th minute.

The collision seemed to spark the Africans, as they began to gain an edge in possession.

Samuel Eto'o created the first real

chance of the match in the 19th minute, when he worked a one-two with Patrick Mboma near midfield to get free. As he raced into the box, charging Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given came out hard to smother the attempt.

Eto'o produced another strong chance after running onto a lob into the right side of the penalty area. At the corner of the area, he turned and lofted a shot over Given, but off target and out for a goal kick.

Eto'o began to create more danger from that point on and was integral in breaking the deadlock when he beat a defender at the by-line on the right side, and his pass found the foot of Mboma, who easily slotted the ball into the empty net for one-nil in the 39th.

Late in the half, Ireland's Ian Harte whipped a free kick into the box from the right side that was nearly knocked into the Cameroon goal by defender Rigobert Song, but goalkeeper Boukar Alioum smothered the ball to prevent the own goal.

But that was the only real-chance allowed by Cameroon in the first 45

minutes, as they did their part to earn the lead going into the dressing room.

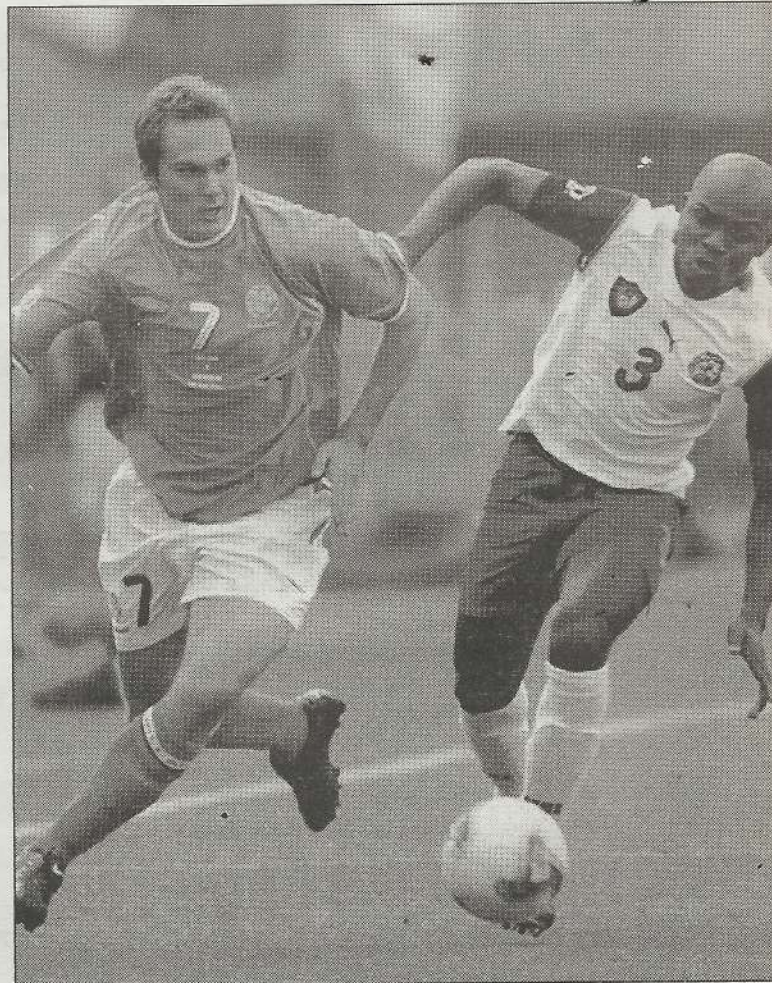
The hard-working Irish side started the second half in search of an early goal and almost had one four minutes in, when Kevin Kilbane's glancing header from Ian Harte's cross skidded wide of the back post.

Moments later, Geremi narrowly missed the far post after winning possession deep in the Irish half, Ireland found their equaliser through Matt Holland. Kilbane's cross from the left side was only half cleared by Cameroon, and Holland drilled a solid right-footer from 25 yards into the left corner in the 52nd minute.

The goal really sparked Ireland and they almost went ahead when a ball played into the goal mouth for Robbie Keane was blocked towards goal by Rigobert Song, and only a desperate 63rd minute dive from goalkeeper Boukar Alioum kept the game level.

Through most of the second half, neither side consistently had the better run of play, but Ireland seemed to sense victory as the match drew to a close and gained momentum.

Robbie Keane looked to take advan-



Ireland's Jason McAteer and Cameroon's Pierre Wome get physical during the opening match.

tage of some more poor work by the Cameroon defence only six from time. Standing at the edge of the penalty area, Keane coolly controlled a driven clearance with one touch, and his quick right-footed drive crashed off the far post.

As the clock neared full time, Ireland had another opportunity to go ahead but Steven Reid's powerful free kick was tipped over the bar by Alioum.

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

www.soccernsw.com.au



SUPER LEAGUE FEATURE MATCH



Ryde City

v

MSC Liverpool

By Greg Stock

RYDE CITY 3
(Damien Brown 6' Andy Stratford 45' pen 80'pen)

MSC LIVERPOOL . . 0
at Magdala Oval

Underestimate Ryde City at your peril. That's the news from a wet Magdala Park where Ryde City picked up their second win of the season in emphatic fashion defeating MSC Liverpool 3-0. While the game was not one of the most entertaining ever witnessed, it was one of the most riveting as both sides went at it like two prize fighters slugging it out.

But undoubtedly it was Gunners coach Tony Dunn, who 'outcoached' his more credentialed opponent in Lee Sterrey, that got his side the win. Dunn took a huge gamble in his starting side opting for Damien Brown to start the game upfront and handing the role of sweeper to Eddie Giraldo.

Brown hadn't started all season after he broke a leg in a trial game against a visiting American representative team during the pre-season, while Giraldo had a point to prove after missing the past few weeks with suspension. The moves were tactical masterstrokes as both players turned in unblemished performances and were arguably the cornerstones of the win.

Brown proved Dunn correct inside the first ten minutes, when he got his side off to a flying start, getting his head to an Andy Stratford cross. Stratford made the most of his rare foray forward as he got in behind the Liverpool defence to send his cross in with pin point accuracy to meet the rising Brown. But while the visitors worked hard to get themselves back into the contest, Giraldo marshalled his troops

superbly and with Robbie Grubba and Erkin Elveren doing a great job as markers, their run was all but over when Andy Stratford put away the first of his two penalties.

NSW representative midfielder Greg Collins was bought down heavily inside the penalty box as he surged forward and Stratford had no problems converting from the spot. The home side continued their run in the second half picking up a third goal after defender Tom Corte made an 80 metre run from deep inside his own area to connect with a Robbie Portelli through ball. But like Collins before, he too was dragged down before he had a chance to shoot, with Stratford making certain the result.



Paul Wearne withstands a challenge.

While the game always struggled to get out of first gear due to the wet conditions, the contest was an thrilling one and full credit to both Dunn and Sterrey for adopting attacking tactics in order to get the result. While Greg Collins again put in another lion hearted performance for Ryde, there was a lot to like about Liverpool, despite their late capitulation. Paul Wearne and Dong Ki-Kim had indifferent afternoons while Jamie Amendolia both showed enough to suggest that they will improve in the weeks to come. Playing a possession style of football with plenty of movement off the ball, the side seemingly ran out of ideas midway through the second half but to their credit fought gamely to the end.

The three points lifts Ryde City into ninth spot and while the club celebrated a great win, they do realise the job is still in front of them. "It was a great performance from the boys today" said Dunn, "but we know we still have a long way to go this season and we are far from finished. The top five is still a long way in front of us but if we can play like we did today, I'm sure we can surprise a few more teams in the run home."



Referee of the Year, Nick Asargiotis, observes the action in Sunday's game.



SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND 13

Saturday 8 June

	First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Macarthur Rams v Hajduk Wanderers	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM

Sunday 9 June

	First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Sydney University v AC United	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Fraser Park Jets v Manly Warringah	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
MSC Liverpool v Dulwich Hill	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Stanmore Hawks v Ryde City	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Rockdale City Suns v Hurstville City CS	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM

Monday 10 June

	First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Hajduk Wanderers v Stanmore Hawks	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM

ROUND 14

Sunday 16 June

	First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Ryde City v Fraser Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Dulwich Hill v Stanmore Hawks	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Manly Warringah v Macarthur Rams	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Sydney University v MSC Liverpool	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Hurstville City CS v Hajduk Wanderers	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM
Rockdale City Suns v AC United	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM



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NSW Super League



ROUND TWELVE WRAP-UP

By Greg Stock



Freddy Umil of Sydney University.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 1
(Gordon Boyd 81')

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS . . . 6
(Spase Najdoski 13', 41' Richard Plesa 44', Nick Bosevski 57', 60', Goce Trposki 88')
at University Oval No 1

In the absence of captain and striker Rob Smithies, the 'Students' were, in one word, overwhelmed. With Rockdale turning on a near perfect performance, an under strength home side was never in the hunt and struggled to get out of their own half for much of the game.

With strikers Spase Najdoski and Nick Bosevski allowed free reign to roam the forward line with gay



AC United's Domenic Oliverio.

abandon, the Suns raced to a 3-0 half-time lead with two great strikes from Najdoski the highlight. In the second half the intensity didn't let up with Bosevski getting himself a brace and the sixth goal going to new signing Goce Trposki.

University did get one back via Gordon Boyd but lacked penetration on the few times they did venture forward. The win takes Rockdale back into first spot on the table by two competition points.

MANLY-WARRINGAH 3

(Steve Berry 10' Own Goal 59' Marc Nicholson 74')

STANMORE HAWKS 3

(Robert Todorovski 13', 72', Peter Papoythis 76')
at Cromer Park

One of the most exciting games seen at Cromer Park for many years saw the Hawks come from behind three times to grab an even share of the points with the title favourites.

The Dolphins scooted out to an early 1-0 lead when Steve Berry met a cross from the right hand side to nail his trademark header with ease.

But no sooner had the game restarted, when the Hawks struck back through Robert Todorovski,



Huseyin Bayhan from Hurstville City.

returning to the starting side after a long injury lay-off. Again Manly picked up the lead via an own goal through a goal mouth scramble, before Todorovski again burst through to drill his shot and even up the ledger.

Two minutes later Marc Nicholson put the home side back in front before Peter "flea" Papoythis was sent forward in the 76th minute to snatch a dramatic equaliser. Normally renowned for his work in the air, Papoythis was 'Johnny on the spot' to meet a cross and smash home a right foot shot from close range.



Hajduk's leading marksman Tim Gledhill.

HAJDUK WANDERERS . . . 4
(Gabriel Gonzalez 54' Trent Worrell 24' pen 76' 89' pen)

FRASER PARK 2
(Adam Snyder 17' Jack Sobczyk 80')
at Hajduk Stadium

Jets coach John Sentas cut a very dejected figure as he watched his side put in their worst performance of the season thus far, to go down 4-2 to the red hot Wanderers.

Adam Snyder got Fraser Park off to an ideal start when he met a Jack Sobczyk cross in the 17th minute, but after that it was all downhill for the visitors.

Trent Worrell squared the game with a 24th minute penalty before Gabriel Gonzalez and Worrell

again picked up goals to take the lead out to 3-2. Jack Sobczyk gave his side a glimmer of hope at 3-2 with an 80th minute effort but realistically the wind had well and truly gone out of the Jets' sails as Worrell made the final score 4-2 with an 89th spot kick.

"Hajduk were a lot hungrier than us" said Sentas after the match. "We were complacent at times and didn't play with our usual zest and that cost us the game."

HURSTVILLE CITY CS . . . 1

(Hussein Jomaa 73')

MACARTHUR RAMS 3

(Matthew Thompson 80' Eric Williams 84' 90')
at St George Stadium

Jimmy Aschner made his run-on debut for Hurstville City but it wasn't enough to give his side the points on a wet pitch at a cold St George Stadium.

With Tanju Balabanel making way for Aschner, Crescent Star had a strong first half narrowly missing the target on three occasions with Huseyin Bayhan unable to get close with his two one-on-one chances.

The same vein continued for the second half and when Hussein Jomaa finally got the goal in the 74th minute, a Hurstville win seemed assured. But the Rams are made of sterner stuff and with Hurstville completely unsettled at the back they grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck.

Matt Thompson picked up the equaliser in dramatic fashion before Eric Williams picked up two late goals to send the points back to Campbelltown and give Hurstville coach Peter Sarikakis a bad case of heartburn.

DULWICH HILL v AC UNITED
Washed Out

LEADING SCORERS

8 - Robert Smithies (Sydney University),
Hamilton Thorpe (Manly-Warringah)

7 - Steve Berry (Manly-Warringah), Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers), Spase Najdoski (Rockdale City Suns),

6 - Antonio Faria (Fraser Park), Ryan Griffiths (Manly-Warringah)

5 - Huseyin Bayhan (Hurstville City), Ben Burrows (Ryde City), Jean-Loup Rousseau (Dulwich Hill), Eric Williams (Macarthur Rams), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers)

4 - Zoki Adioski (Rockdale City Suns), Peter Apolevski (Rockdale City Suns), Tanju Balabanel (Hurstville City), Neno Bobos (AC United), Nick Bosevski (Rockdale City Suns), Andy Stratford (Ryde City)

3 - Denis Allovic (Rockdale City Suns), Aydin Cetinay (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Ben Deighan (Rockdale City Suns), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), Marc Nicholson (Manly-Warringah), Peter Papoythis (Stanmore Hawks), Neil Phillipou (Stanmore Hawks), Tom Pontidas (Stanmore Hawks), Ben Price (AC United), Brendan Salameh (Hajduk Wanderers), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Robert Todorovski (Stanmore Hawks), Luke Vincent (AC United), Paul White (AC United)

2 - Kire Agwa (Fraser Park), Alex Araujo (AC United), Gordon Boyd (Sydney University), David Brickell (Manly-Warringah), Eddie Briscoe (Stanmore Hawks), Yavus Ekinci (Hurstville City), Gabriel Gonzalez (Hajduk Wanderers), Eric Hristodoulou (Stanmore Hawks), Robert Issa (MSC Liverpool), Steve Jordan (Hajduk Wanderers), Jim Melissourgos (Stanmore Hawks), Luke McDougal (Sydney University), Jason McMinimee (Sydney University), Robbie Portelli (Ryde City), Damien Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Freddy Umil (Sydney University), Stewart Van Bentum (Macarthur Rams), Navid Vares (Stanmore Hawks), Zia Younan (AC United)



The pack is closing in on joint leader, Robbie Smithies.

NEW SOUTH WALES
FOOTBALL

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NSW Super League



ROUND 13 PREVIEW

By Greg Stock



Macarthur Rams

v

Hajduk Wanderers



KICK-OFF: 7pm, 5pm & 3pm, Saturday 8th June 2002
VENUE: Lynwood Park, Rangers Road, St Helens Park.

Lynwood Park has not proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Rams this season and it will be interesting to see how they come up this week, after a come from behind win against Hurstville.

The confidence of striker Eric Williams would be sky high after he picked himself up a brace last Sunday which included the winning goal.

But if the Rams are to make a late run for the post season they

must win this week and put some pressure on the sides above them.

Hajduk definitely won't be an easy commodity and they, too, have their tails up after knocking over a lacklustre Fraser Park last weekend.

While that result was their first win since April 28th, they are on the brink of the top five and that should be incentive enough for a forward showing.



Tim Gledhill of Hajduk

MSC Liverpool

v

Dulwich Hill



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 9th June 2002
VENUE: Hammondville Pk, Heathcote Road, Hammondville.

MSC Liverpool coach Lee Sterrey must be literally pulling his hair out after another disappointing performance from his side last week.

Since taking over the club three weeks ago he has posted just one win from three starts, but the real worry is a lack of penetration in front of goal.

The team has scored just one goal in 270 minutes of football and that came via veteran mid-

fielder Anthony Driene three weeks ago.

Dulwich Hill come into the game nicely after a week off due to the rain last weekend and will back themselves with new signing Robbie Gomez expected to start.

If he can get some quality ball from the likes of Yane Talceviski and Con Paradisis the result could be well in hand for the visitors as they seek to end their current losing streak.



Andre Glucina of Dulwich Hill.



Sydney University

v

AC United



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 9th June 2002
VENUE: Sydney University No.1 Main Campus Sydney University Camperdown

Sydney University will have to make do without the services of their leading scorer and skipper Rob Smithies for another week and with a long injury list in the camp, coach Stewart Porter will need all his guile to pull out a result this week.

Freddy Umlil is the man most likely to step up to cover for Smithies and he will be the key man as far as the home

side is concerned.

AC United had the week off last weekend courtesy of the rain, and coach Paul Carter will have his troops freshened up and ready for action.

They have lost just once in their past seven matches and that was a tough 1-0 loss to Fraser Park away, so anything but a win to the visitors is hard to imagine.



Sydney University coach Stewart Porter.



Stanmore Hawks

v

Ryde City



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 9th June 2002
VENUE: Arlington Oval, Cnr Williams St, & Constitution Road, Dulwich Hill.

Stanmore are definitely the quiet achievers of the competition this year with coach Chris Karasis doing an excellent job to mix some quality veterans with some exciting young talent.

In fourth spot on 18 points and two games in hand, the Hawks could go into the top three for the first time this season with a forward showing against Ryde City on Sunday.

But Gunners coach Tony Dunn is not about to let his team go down without a fight and with reborn striker Damien Brown his chief

attacking weapon his side is more than capable of springing a surprise.

"We haven't been playing all that badly in recent weeks" said Dunn, "but some bad luck and some stupid errors in our back third have cost us dearly."

We know Stanmore will be tough. They have a very experienced team and can move the ball forward very quickly but if we can hold ourselves together in defence and use the ball efficiently in the middle of the park, we will give as good as we get."



Stanmore's Navid Vares

Fraser Park Jets

v

Manly Warringah Dolphins



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 9th June 2002
VENUE: Fraser Park, 100 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville.

Undoubtedly the match of the round which pits two of the best coaching tacticians in the league head to head.

Former Sydney Olympic boss John Sentas versus ex-Socceroo international Robbie Slater has all the makings of a daytime soap opera with two of the best performed squads in recent weeks matching up.

"Manly will be very tough" said Sentas, "and with Robbie (Slater) as coach they have proved they are one of the best teams in the league and a real yardstick for every other

team to measure themselves by."

The Jets will be without mid-fielder Marcello Pena for the next three weeks after he hobbled from the field last weekend with knee ligament damage, but with Sentas likely to sign a new 'mystery' mid-fielder during the week, the squad will be at full strength.

"It should be a great game" concluded Sentas. "The entire club is looking forward to the match and we are hoping to see our supporters come out in force to cheer the boys home."



Ian Church of Manly.



Rockdale City Suns

v

Hurstville City CS



KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 2nd June 2002
VENUE: Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, 210 West Botany St, Arncliffe.

On paper this game promises to be a very attacking contest, so fans of both sides should get down to Rockdale Ilinden Sports Ground expecting to see some goals and some great attacking entertainment.

Hurstville will start Jimmy 'goal-a-game' Aschner alongside Huseyin Bayhan and Tanju Balabanel, while Rockdale will unleash Spase Najdoski, Nick Bosevski and Goce Trposki in a

three pronged forward line.

It looks very exciting and with so much creativity on the park, the winner will no doubt come from the team that can hold their opponents in defence.

With Crescent Star back in the hands of Peter "The General" Sarikakis, expect a much more disciplined team, though they will start as the underdogs in the 'local' derby!



Hurstville's recent signing Devrin Huseyin.



NSW Super League



Scoreboard

SUPER LEAGUE RD 12

First Grade

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY1 (G Boyd 81')	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS6 (S Najdoski 13'/41', R Plesa 44', N Bosevski 57'/60', G Trposki 88')
RYDE CITY3 (D Brown 6', A Stratford 45'pen/80' pen)	MSC LIVERPOOL0
MANLY WARRINGAH3 (S Berry 10' og, 59', M Nicholson 74')	STANMORE HAWKS3 (R Todorovski 13'/72', P Papoythis 76')
HAJDUK WANDERERS ...4 (G Gonzalez 54', T Worall 24' pen/76'/89' pen)	FRASER PARK JETS2 (A Snyder 17', J Sobczyk 80')
HURSTVILLE CITY CS1 (H Jomaa 73')	MACARTHUR RAMS3 (M Thompson 80', E Williams 84'/90')

DULWICH HILL v AC UNITED WASHED OUT

Under 21

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS1
RYDE CITY4	MSC LIVERPOOL1
MANLY WARRINGAH2	STANMORE HAWKS0
HAJDUK WANDERERS0	FRASER PARK JETS2
HURSTVILLE CITY CS2	MACARTHUR RAMS2

DULWICH HILL v AC UNITED WASHED OUT

Under 19

RYDE CITY4	MSC LIVERPOOL1
MANLY WARRINGAH6	STANMORE HAWKS3
HAJDUK WANDERERS2	FRASER PARK JETS1
HURSTVILLE CITY CS0	MACARTHUR RAMS6

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY v ROCKDALE CITY SUNS WASHED OUT

DULWICH HILL v AC UNITED WASHED OUT



MSC Liverpool

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 12

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Rockdale City Suns	12	9	2	1	31	12	19	29
Manly Warringah Dolphins	12	8	3	1	30	14	16	27
AC United	11	6	3	2	23	18	5	21
Fraser Park Jets	12	6	3	3	16	13	3	21
Stanmore Hawks	11	5	3	3	21	13	8	18
Hajduk Wanderers	11	5	2	4	21	16	5	17
Hurstville City Crescent Star	12	4	3	5	23	23	0	15
Sydney University	12	3	3	6	23	28	-5	12
Ryde City	12	2	4	6	14	19	-5	10
Macarthur Rams	12	3	1	8	12	25	-13	10
Dulwich Hill	11	3	0	8	11	22	-11	9
MSC Liverpool	12	1	3	8	6	28	-22	6

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	12	8	2	2	28	18	10	26
Ryde City	12	7	2	3	28	20	8	23
Fraser Park Jets	12	7	1	4	25	14	11	22
AC United	11	6	2	3	21	15	6	20
Hurstville City Crescent Star	12	5	4	3	23	18	5	19
Hajduk Wanderers	11	5	3	3	20	18	2	18
Manly Warringah Dolphins	11	4	3	4	16	14	2	15
Rockdale City Suns	11	4	2	5	20	18	2	14
Stanmore Hawks	11	3	3	5	10	15	-5	12
Sydney University	12	2	3	7	18	29	-11	9
MSC Liverpool	11	2	2	7	13	29	-16	8
Dulwich Hill	10	1	1	8	7	21	-14	4

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ryde City	12	9	1	2	34	20	14	28
Macarthur Rams	12	8	1	3	32	19	13	25
Manly Warringah Dolphins	11	7	2	2	31	17	14	23
Dulwich Hill	10	7	0	3	19	9	10	21
Rockdale City Suns	10	6	2	2	22	17	5	20
Hajduk Wanderers	11	6	1	4	19	18	1	19
Fraser Park Jets	12	6	0	6	25	18	7	18
Sydney University	11	3	3	5	18	27	-9	12
Stanmore Hawks	11	3	2	6	21	24	-3	11
AC United	11	1	4	6	19	25	-6	7
MSC Liverpool	11	1	2	8	18	32	-14	5
Hurstville City Crescent Star	12	0	2	10	13	45	-32	2



Ryde City



NSW Divisions 1 & 2



State Team Challenge

NSW are keen to finish off their interstate series with a win against traditional rivals, Victoria, at Melita Stadium on Monday the 10th of June at 3pm.

The New South Welshmen have not had luck on their side in the previous two interstate matches losing on each occasion to Queensland (2-3) and South Australia (1-2).

Although the Blues have played some very good football, they have failed to convert the chances on goal, so crucial in these types of games.

NSW Captain, Vuko Tomasevic, is confident of a home win in this game even though they have failed to register a win in the previous two fixtures.

"This time around, we will not have any Premier League obligations hindering our preparations and therefore we are all extremely positive going into the final game against the Vics," said Tomasevic.

In his first appointment as State Coach, Greg Woodhouse is also optimistic about the Blues chances. "Considering the amount of possession we have had in both games, we really should've won against Queensland and South Australia. A few tough calls didn't help either, but having said that, we are all now focussed on completing our interstate commitments with a win against Victoria" said Woodhouse.

The Blues will be looking to the experience of NSW Goalkeeper Of The Year, Jason Holmes, as well as the goalscoring abilities of Marc Hoenselaars and his striking partner, Matthew Borg, to make the difference.

The work rate of Vuko Tomasevic, Allan Picken, Greg Collins and former Newcastle United captain Glenn Sprodd in the NSW midfield will certainly dictate the intensity and balance of the game.

The selection of younger squad players, such as Jason Sciberras and David Gardiner, means that

the experience that they have gained during the interstate series will only benefit NSW in the future.

The Victorians, on the other hand, are eager to avenge their 3-1 loss to the Blues last year at Epping Stadium in North Melbourne. Having recently beaten Queensland 2-0 at home, the Vics are brimming with confidence in the lead-up to this match. The Victorian squad is led by captain Henry Velkovski (Green Gully) and coached by Harry Chalkitis, includes players such as former Soccerroo Joe Spiteri (Melbourne Knights and Olympic Sharks), former Olyroo Dragi Nasteviski (Melbourne Knights), and goalkeeper Jim Kourtis (Gippsland Falcons), as well as a number of in-form Victorian Premier League stars.

With such talent within both ranks, this will be by no means an easy game for either team.

As this fixture is NSW's only game in the series to be played at home, this is a great opportunity for local soccer fans to see the best players that the NSW Premier League has to offer.

The curtain raiser for the interstate challenge will be the NSW Women's Super League fixtures between NSW Academy and North West Sydney Koalas, with the U21's kicking off at 11am and the First Grade at 1pm.



NSW Captain Vuko Tomasevic.

DIVISION ONE ROUND-UP RD 12

By Paul Goodwin

WESTERN RAGE and BATHURST took centre stage at the Calabrian Sports ground on Saturday and the visitors suffered a set back to their hopes of continuing their recent good form that had taken them to a spot well entrenched among the top four of the division.

The game was only 13 minutes old when a Western Rage move down the right involving Bruno Beddoni led to a real scrimmage in the Bathurst goalmouth that allowed Paolo Talone to step up and drive his shot from close range past a helpless Jarrod Bone in the Bathurst goal.

Bathurst broke back in the dying seconds of the first half when Adam Collins had a shot following some solid Bathurst build-up and with a defender forced to attempt a last ditch save the ball was then diverted in off the post by the alert Mark Rooke in the shadows of the post.

The Rage was getting on top after the break and it came as little surprise when they regained the lead in the 60th minute.

Rob Lovrenic sent over a corner from the left and with Louis Berbis and Clinton Green at the near post to put the pressure on it was the latter who was able to get the telling touch to beat the keeper and score the second for the home side.

The game was put beyond the reach of the Bathurst boys in the 71st when

Talone played a through ball for Bruno Beddoni to spring the offside play and go on and round the keeper with ease.

It was a fine effort by the Rage team against a side that had been doing well hitherto and must have entertained hopes of yet another win to cement a berth among the elite this season.

MDRUITT were again at Poppondetta Park, against a WHITE CITY side that had a rain off the previous weekend.

White City led from a cracker of a shot from Peter Krjar from 25 yards out on the right side of the area in a typical piece of individual play.

Mallie Vukosa for Mount Druitt then responded when he got away on the left, beat one defender and then put a low shot past the City keeper.

A 52nd minute corner from Richard Varga for White City saw a defender attempt a clearance only for Costello De Andre from the edge of the box to drill a low shot past the keeper and restore his side's lead.

In the latter stages Peter Krjar put Danny Poljak through only for the

latter to be brought down in the area and from the resultant penalty kick Poljak made it 3-1 and that's how it finished with a good all round performance by White City yielding the three points.

HILLS UNITED met WESTERN CEDARS at Fred Caterson in what was to prove something of a challenge for the leaders.

An amazing game it was too, a ten goal thriller, with Eddie Adam netting four of the five scored by the visitors. Wanderers Cedars' free scoring Adam put Cedars in the lead with three beauties in the first half, but the Hills managed to reverse the score getting two goals in quick succession, plus an own goal by The Wanderers' player, Bahaa, that gave The Hills the equalizer.

After this they scored another two, leaving leaders the Cedars with the task of fighting back to secure a point with 15 minutes to go.

The Wanderers' Gus Orcajo scored the fourth while Adam completed his own personal contribution with the all important equaliser.

There were then at least another three opportunities for The Wanderers Cedars to win the game, but in the end the clock beat them, on a day they will probably want to forget.

As leaders they would have expected a much easier passage against the last placed Hills outfit.

HURSTVILLE ZSC and HILLAWARRA LIONS at Hurstville Oval was a derby for both sides and was played in a tense if competitive fashion.

The field was slightly soggy and moist but had no devastating affect on the play of the game. Hurstville was in fifth position and the South Coast visitors were second from the bottom as the day began.

Illawarra Lions showed a great attacking performance, predominantly down the right side, through attacking midfielder Marko Vuckovic and defender Keegan Pillay.

That's where the opening goal came from. Some good work from Pillay, who began inside his own half and played some good one-twos with Vuckovic who cut back the final cross to Tony Veleviski who slotted the ball away.

Heavy pressure down the right side through Vuckovic, who had an absolutely brilliant game, led to the Lions performing well above expectations in the first half.

The Lions were unfortunate not to get a second goal in the first half as they applied a great deal of pressure on an overworked Hurstville defence.

Sasho Boskovski was instrumental at sweeper since coach Bill Kulevski decided to use him in his new role. The team has played with more confidence all over the paddock and it has proven to be a successful move by Kulevski as Illawarra has not conceded a goal in the past two games with Boskovski at sweeper.

Hurstville came out strongly in the first ten minutes of the second half, however, but they could not penetrate the Lions' defence and could not get into their opponents' penalty area.

Illawarra got their second goal, half way through the second half, through Nick Josevski.

Keegan Pillay sent in a pin point cross to the left boot of Josevski whose first time volley dipped beautifully over the Hurstville goalkeeper.

Lions' goalkeeper, Trinity Allen, was barely tested by Hurstville throughout the game.

Outstanding were midfielders Tony Veleviski and Marko Vuckovic. In defence, Sasho Boskovski was instrumental, but defender Ali Kamib also had a strong game.

Hurstville coach John Gagro conceded that his side had been beaten by a better side on the day.

"We played much better in the second half but this Illawarra side is much stronger than the one we met in the first round and they were just too good for us on the day" he admitted.

BELMORE HERCULES and MT BRITCHARD are old rivals and met at Blick Oval in a keen contest.

A goal by Rowan Healey in the 3rd minute set the scene for a Mounties win at the bleak and windy Ashbury ground.

In the second half the Mounties came out fired up for more goals, Luke Tomich scoring in the 56th with cracking shot from right in front.

Belmore came back with a goal by Sam Solidakis after a scrimmage of players in front of goal after a defensive lapse by Mounties.

Mounties missed a number of chances to add to their tally before Healey put away a screamer in the 87th min.

A feature of the game was 16 year old Joshua Saumatua making his first grade debut for the Mounties when he was brought on to replace Healey after his second goal.

Belmore keeper Elias Tritsarlis made a number of great saves to keep the Mounties to just the 3-1 win, a result that sees the visitors firmly entrenched in second spot.

NORTHERN TIGERS had the bye.

DIV 2 ROUND-UP AVAILABLE ON NSW SF WEBSITE - www.soccernsw.com.au

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DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wanderers Cedars	11	8	2	1	28	18	10	26
Mt Pritchard	11	7	1	3	24	13	11	22
Western Rage	10	5	3	2	17	13	4	18
Bathurst 75	11	5	3	3	12	12	0	18
Hurstville ZSC	10	4	1	5	18	18	0	13
White City	10	3	3	4	20	18	2	12
Illawarra Lions	10	3	3	4	17	16	1	12
Belmore Hercules	11	3	2	6	12	18	-6	11
Mt Druitt Town	11	3	2	6	11	20	-9	11
Northern Tigers	9	3	1	5	8	8	0	10
Hills United	10	2	1	7	16	29	-13	7

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Liverpool Bossy	11	7	3	1	23	13	10	24
Auburn Star	10	7	1	2	34	18	16	22
Hakoah	11	6	1	4	24	21	3	19
Parramatta City	11	6	1	4	21	19	2	19
Nepean Association	9	6	0	3	24	11	13	18
Camden Tigers	11	5	1	5	22	22	0	16
Schofields Spions	10	5	0	5	16	12	4	15
Greystanes SC	11	4	2	5	22	22	0	14
University of NSW	9	4	1	4	15	16	-1	13
Mingara Lakers	10	2	0	8	12	27	-15	6
Holy Cross Ryde	11	0	0	11	10	42	-32	0



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE R14

Central Coast Coasties v St George

Only six goals were scored on the day as the Coasties took full advantage of their home ground to take all the points from St George and move two places up the Combined Table to ninth position. The day started well for the home club with a 1-0 victory in the 13s but they had to wait until the 42nd minute for the goal to come and Dane Fearnley was the provider with a scorching from outside the penalty area. This result allowed the Coasties to jump over the Saints on the table to claim eighth place. Then Central Coast went on with the job in the 14s and maintained their place in the top five as a consequence. Scott Imberger took advantage of a good pass from Brett Edmonds ten minutes into the second half to give the points to the Coasties.



However the visitors were far from out of the contest and it is certain that Lee McFarland's outstanding contribution in the home team's goal laid the foundation for the team's success on the day. In the 15s Chris Koelma got the Coasties off to a good start with his eighth minute strike before Malcolm Wills made it two in the 51st minute. Saints got on the scoreboard six minutes later through Gareth Gough but it was not enough for the yet-to-win visitors.

The 17s game was a must-win affair for the Coasties who needed to stay in touch with the top five...

Even though the Saints are in last place on the table, the home team knew that they would need to be at their best and that proved to be the case. The game was fairly even but the Coasties probably had the better of the scoring chances only to see their best efforts thwarted by the brilliance of the St George goalkeeper.

They finally broke through in the 31st minute when Brenton Herbert provided a cross for Darren Cooper and he made no mistake. Unfortunately that was the end of the scoring for the day as the remainder of the match was fairly even, largely due to the rain affected surface.

Sutherland Shire Sharks v Marconi Stallions

Sutherland had only one point to show for their hard work against the Marconi Stallions at Seymour Shaw on Saturday but there seems to be a little more to the story than the mere



scorelines. Marconi's 13s proved too strong for the Sharks scoring three times in the first half and then adding two more after the break. Their scorers were F. Faral, D. Rowinski, J. De Giogio and J. Nadovski with two goals. Although the Stallions went home with the points in the 14s the game was a bit more of a contest than some would have expected.

Marconi raced to a 2-0 lead before halftime through S. Kaynak and I. Ramsay and that was the end of the scoring as the second half was a very closely contested event. Mark Campisi scored his club's first goal for the day to give his team a 1-0 lead at halftime but the Stallions came home strongly in the second stanza with a double from C. Nunes to snatch the three points. In the 17s S. Sarchar and A. Denina scored for the visitors to earn a 2-0 lead at the break but the Sharks hit back in the second period and found the net through Christian Lo-Russo and Matt Clarkson. Such was the pressure applied by Sutherland in this half that the visitors were very pleased indeed to hear the final whistle.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE R14

Ku-Ring-Gai Association v Hajduk Wanderers

Ku-Ring-Gai had a reasonably good day of it at Parklands Oval, securing nine of the available points from the visiting Hajduk Wanderers. They began with a three pointer against the better-performed Wanderers thanks to a strike from Gavin Loaring.

They needed the disciplined approach they had decided to adopt as the visitors had a greater share of the shooting opportunities but they were unable to find the back of the net. Ku-Ring-Gai's 14s finally put it all together for a morale boosting win over the Wanderers who tumbled out of the top five as a result of this match. Matt Sim scored the only goal of the game and the visitors had one disallowed in a keenly contested match.

Goals from Andrew Bryant and Stefano Pizzin were enough to ensure that Ku-Ring-Gai's 15s maintained their third spot on the ladder. Hajduk gave their all but were simply unable to score despite hitting the crossbar. Providing their only joy for the Wanderers on the day, the 17s took advantage of some defensive errors from the home team to take home the points.

Luke Tate got them off to a good start with the only goal of the first half. Five goals were scored in an even second half with Michael Cozamis (2) and Jerry Turri find the net for the visitors and Daniel Knop and Daniel Hillege providing the goals for the home team.

Mingara Lakers v Macarthur Rams

Macarthur Rams had a pleasant day on the Central Coast as they brought nine very valuable points home from the Mingara Lakers to maintain their



fourth spot on the Combined Table. John Franco's 13s gave the Rams an excellent start with goals from Alex Penales and Mitchell O'Keefe but the Lakers gave them an awful scare when Eric Koelma chased down a through ball and lobbed it over the advancing goalkeeper. The Rams lost momentum after this goal but hung on to the points.

Bill Garriock's 14s continued the winning trend for the Rams as they cruised to a 2-0 lead at the break thanks to goals from Josh Ford and Billy Burnett. In the Second half they increased their lead when Stefan Donevski used his silky skills to take on a string of defenders before sticking the ball away.

Macarthur are now four points clear at the top of their table. Mark Williams guided his charges to their second win of the season to move away from the bottom of the table. Daniel Cienta scored a double for the Rams to punish the Lakers who reportedly had the lion's share of the ball but were unable to put it to good use. The 17s was the only real bright spot for the home club but they received a bit of a shock on the way to claiming the points.

The Rams unexpectedly opened the scoring when Brendan Cashel pounced on a defensive error and he made no mistake with a blistering volley. Needing the points to stay in fourth place the Lakers then rolled up their sleeves and were rewarded when Tony Cornwal provided a well struck shot from an acute angle for the equaliser. The same player stepped up for the spot kick soon afterward and his conversion earned the Lakers a much closer than expected win.



DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE RD 14

Ryde City v Illawarra Lions

Ryde City would have been hoping for a better outcome but they had to settle for a mere four points from their clash with Illawarra Lions at Magdala Oval. Their previously unbeaten 13s went down by a single goal who remained within striking distance of the top five as a result.

Then Singha Chuchee provided the only goal in the 14s to give Ryde their only win of the day.

The home club's 15s are currently on the bottom of the table but they showed a huge improvement in losing only 0-1 to much better perform Lions who crept into the top five this week.

In fact, some interested observers though Ryde were a tad unlucky to have nothing to show from this match. The 17s was a very tight affair that could have gone either way and ended in a 1-1 draw. Armon Karagezian provided to goal for the top-of-the-table Ryde.

PICTURES FROM BANKSTOWN V MINGARA IN CADET LEAGUE AND KU-RING-GAI V HAJDUK U/15S, SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 15

Sat 8 June	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Sydney Utd SC	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Sydney United	v Sutherland Shire
Kingswood Park	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	1:30 PM	3:00 PM	Penrith Panthers	v Olympic Sharks
Lambert Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Leichhardt Tigers	v Wollongong Wolves
Marconi 2	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Marconi Stallions	v Central Coast
St George Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	St George	v Northern Spirit
Melita Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Parramatta Eagles	v Blacktown City

Mon 10-June						
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Marconi Stallions	v Parramatta Eagles
Plum Park No.1	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Central Coast	v Sutherland Shire
Lambert Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Leichhardt Tigers	v Olympic Sharks
Brandon Park No.2	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Wollongong Wolves	v Northern Spirit
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Penrith Panthers	v Sydney United

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 15

Sat 8 June	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mingara Lakers	v AC United
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hills United	v Macarthur Rams
Francis Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Blacktown Assoc	v Bonnyrigg WE
Macquarie Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Newcastle United	v Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc
Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	v Fairfield Bulls
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bankstown City	v Nepean Assoc
Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Canterbury M'ville	v Eastern Suburbs

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 15

Sat 8 June	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Magdala Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ryde City	v Mt Pritchard
Rockdale Illinden	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Rockdale City	v Illawarra Lions
Popondetta Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mt Druitt Town	v Stanmore Hawks

Eric Primrose Res	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Parramatta City	v Camden Tigers
Hammondville Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	MSC Liverpool	v Hurstville City CS
Arlington Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	v Schofields Sp'ions
Garside Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Granville Assoc	v Hawkesbury City

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 15

Sat 8 June	U11	U12		
Kingswood Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Penrith Panthers	v Olympic Sharks
Sydney Utd SC	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Sydney United	v Sutherland Shire Sharks
Melita Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v Blacktown City Demons
Marconi 2	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Marconi Stallions	v Central Coast Coasties
St George Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	St George	v Northern Spirit
Lambert Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Leichhardt Tigers	v Wollongong Wolves

SUPER CADET LEAGUE RD 10

Sat 8 June	U11	U12		
Hensley Athletic Field	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Eastern Suburbs	v Macarthur Rams
Sun 9 June				
Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hajduk Wanderers	v Hills United
Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Mingara Lakers	v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Fairfield Bulls	v Bankstown City Cubs
Abruzzi Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	AC United	v Canterbury Marrickville

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 8

Sat 8 June	U11	U12		
Bensons Lane	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hawkesbury City	v Stanmore Hawks
Sun 9-June				
Ron Dine Reserve	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Camden Tigers	v Ryde City
CSI Club	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Schofield Scorpions	v Hawkesbury City
Arlington Oval	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Stanmore Hawks	v Mt Druitt Town
Hammondville Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	MSC Liverpool	v Illawarra Lions
Eric Primrose Reserve	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Parramatta City	v Hurstville City Crescent Star
Rockdale Illinden Field	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Rockdale City Suns	v Mt Pritchard



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 13: Southern Branch YL 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Wollongong Wolves 1 Sydney United 2, Olympic Sharks 6 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 5, Central Coast Coasties 1 St George 0, Northern Spirit 1 Parramatta Eagles 4, Blacktown City Demons 7 Penrith Panthers 0. **GRADE 14:** Southern Branch YL 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Wollongong Wolves 0 Sydney United 0, Olympic Sharks 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 2, Central Coast Coasties 1 St George 0, Northern Spirit 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, Blacktown City Demons 0 Penrith Panthers 0. **GRADE 15:** Southern Branch YL 2 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Wollongong Wolves 0 Sydney United 0, Olympic Sharks 8 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Marconi Stallions 2, Central Coast Coasties 2 St George 1, Northern Spirit 0 Parramatta Eagles 6, Blacktown City Demons 1 Penrith Panthers 0. **GRADE 16:** Southern Branch YL 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Marconi Stallions 2, Central Coast Coasties 1 St George 0, Northern Spirit 1 Parramatta Eagles 1, Blacktown City Demons 2 Penrith Panthers 0. **GRADE 17:** Southern Branch YL 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1.



SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 13: Mingara Lakers 1 Macarthur Rams 2, AC United 1 Blacktown Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Newcastle United 0, Ku-ring-gai Association 1 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 Canterbury Marrickville 2, Eastern Suburbs Association 3 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Hills United 0 Nepean Association 3. **GRADE 14:** Mingara Lakers 0 Macarthur Rams 3, AC United 1 Blacktown Association 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Newcastle United 6, Ku-ring-gai Association 1 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Eastern Suburbs Association 4 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Hills United 0 Nepean Association 4. **GRADE 15:** Mingara Lakers 0 Macarthur Rams 2, AC United 0 Blacktown Association 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Newcastle United 5, Ku-ring-gai Association 2 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Fairfield Bulls 3 Canterbury Marrickville 1, Eastern Suburbs Association 0 Bankstown City Cubs 5, Hills United 1 Nepean Association 0. **GRADE 16:** Mingara Lakers 2 Macarthur Rams 1, AC United 3 Blacktown Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Newcastle United 3, Ku-ring-gai Association 2 Hajduk Wanderers 4, Fairfield Bulls 0 Canterbury Marrickville 2, Eastern Suburbs Association 0 Bankstown City Cubs 5, Hills United 1 Nepean Association 0. **GRADE 17:** Mingara Lakers 2 Macarthur Rams 1, AC United 3 Blacktown Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Newcastle United 3, Ku-ring-gai Association 2 Hajduk Wanderers 4, Fairfield Bulls 0 Canterbury Marrickville 2, Eastern Suburbs Association 0 Bankstown City Cubs 5, Hills United 1 Nepean Association 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 13: Schofield Scorpions Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Ryde City 0 Illawarra Lions 1, Mt Pritchard 3 Mt Druiit Town 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 Parramatta City 3, Camden Tigers 1 MSC Liverpool 1, Hurstville City Crescent Star Granville Association Washed Out, Hawkesbury City 1 Dulwich Hill 2. **GRADE 14:** Schofield Scorpions Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Ryde City 1 Illawarra Lions 0, Mt Pritchard 0 Mt Druiit Town 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 0 MSC Liverpool 0, Hurstville City Crescent Star Granville Association Washed Out, Hawkesbury City 0 Dulwich Hill 2. **GRADE 15:** Schofield Scorpions Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Ryde City 0 Illawarra Lions 1, Mt Pritchard 1 Mt Druiit Town 2, Stanmore Hawks 0 Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 4 MSC Liverpool 2, Hurstville City Crescent Star Granville Association Washed Out, Hawkesbury City 5 Dulwich Hill 2. **GRADE 16:** Schofield Scorpions Rockdale City Suns Washed Out, Ryde City 1 Illawarra Lions 1, Mt Pritchard 4 Mt Druiit Town 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 2 MSC Liverpool 4, Hurstville City Crescent Star Granville Association Washed Out, Hawkesbury City 1 Dulwich Hill 1.

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 11: Olympic Sharks 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Marconi Stallions 5, Central Coast Coasties 3 St George 1, Northern Spirit 3 Parramatta Eagles 2, Blacktown City Demons 1 Penrith Panthers 0, Southern Branch YL 2 Leichhardt Tigers 3, Wollongong Wolves 2 Sydney United 3. **GRADE 12:** Olympic Sharks 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Marconi Stallions 0, Central Coast Coasties 2 St George 1, Northern Spirit 3 Parramatta Eagles 0, Blacktown City Demons 6 Penrith Panthers 0, Southern Branch YL 0 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Wollongong Wolves 3 Sydney United 0. **ROUND 15: GRADE 11:** Southern Branch YL 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1. **GRADE 12:** Southern Branch YL 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 2.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 9: GRADE 11: Hills United 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Hajduk Wanderers 0, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Mingara Lakers 3, Macarthur Rams 1 AC United 1, Canterbury Marrickville 4 Fairfield Bulls 0. **GRADE 12:** Hills United 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Hajduk Wanderers 5, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Mingara Lakers 0, Macarthur Rams 1 AC United 1, Canterbury Marrickville 6 Fairfield Bulls 1.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 9: GRADE 11: Hawkesbury City 0 Camden Tigers 5, Ryde City 1 Stanmore Hawks 0, Mt Druiit Town 0 MSC Liverpool 1, Illawarra Lions 4 Parramatta City 0, Hurstville City Crescent Star 10 Rockdale City Suns 0, Mt Pritchard 2 Schofield Scorpions 1. **GRADE 12:** Hawkesbury City 0 Camden Tigers 2, Ryde City 1 Stanmore Hawks 1, Mt Druiit Town 3 MSC Liverpool 2, Illawarra Lions 1 Parramatta City 3, Hurstville City Crescent Star 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Mt Pritchard 1 Schofield Scorpions 4.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Parramatta Eagles	13	11	2	0	35	10	25	35		
Northern Spirit	14	10	3	1	31	15	16	33		
Blacktown City Demons	14	8	2	4	31	11	20	26		
Leichhardt Tigers	13	8	2	3	22	9	3	26		
Marconi Stallions	14	7	4	3	27	15	12	25		
Olympic Sharks	14	6	5	3	20	9	11	23		
Penrith Panthers	14	6	3	5	18	21	-3	21		
Central Coast Coasties	13	4	4	5	17	17	0	16		
St George	13	5	1	7	21	25	-4	16		
Manly Warringah	14	4	2	8	13	23	-10	14		
Sutherland Shire Sharks	13	3	2	8	12	33	-21	11		
Sydney United	14	2	3	9	10	21	-11	9		
Southern Branch YL	15	2	2	11	12	38	-26	8		
Wollongong Wolves	14	2	1	11	15	27	-12	7		

GRADE 14										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Northern Spirit	14	11	2	1	47	13	34	35		
Olympic Sharks	14	10	3	1	43	14	29	33		
Marconi Stallions	14	9	4	1	31	11	20	31		
Blacktown City Demons	14	8	3	3	26	14	12	27		
Central Coast Coasties	13	7	2	4	19	21	-2	23		
Leichhardt Tigers	13	6	2	5	12	23	-11	20		
Sydney United	14	4	4	6	23	22	-1	16		
Penrith Panthers	14	4	4	6	13	14	-1	16		
Sutherland Shire Sharks	13	4	3	6	11	20	-9	15		
Parramatta Eagles	13	2	5	6	14	19	-5	11		
Manly Warringah	14	3	2	9	10	27	-17	11		
Wollongong Wolves	14	2	4	8	13	26	-13	10		
St George	13	2	4	7	12	27	-15	10		
Southern Branch YL	15	2	2	11	14	37	-23	8		

GRADE 15										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Olympic Sharks	14	12	1	1	55	8	47	37		
Marconi Stallions	14	12	1	1	35	9	26	37		
Parramatta Eagles	13	9	1	3	39	14	25	28		
Sydney United	14	8	4	2	26	9	17	28		
Blacktown City Demons	14	9	1	4	24	9	15	28		
Wollongong Wolves	14	8	1	5	26	16	10	25		
Northern Spirit	14	7	2	5	26	22	4	23		
Penrith Panthers	14	5	0	9	10	34	-24	15		
Central Coast Coasties	13	4	2	7	17	17	0	14		
Sutherland Shire Sharks	13	4	2	7	11	18	-7	14		
Southern Branch YL	15	4	2	9	8	27	-19	14		
Leichhardt Tigers	13	3	0	10	6	46	-40	9		
Manly Warringah	14	0	3	11	7	36	-29	3		
St George	13	0	2	11	5	30	-25	2		

COMBINED										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Olympic Sharks	55	36	10	9	144	48	96	118		
Northern Spirit	56	36	10	10	130	62	118			
Blacktown City Demons	56	37	6	13	114	46	117			
Marconi Stallions	56	33	10	13	113	63	109			
Parramatta Eagles	52	26	11	15	101	61	40	89		
Leichhardt Tigers	52	23	5	24	71	107	-36	74		
Wollongong Wolves	56	22	7	27	82	77	5	73		
Penrith Panthers	56	21	10	25	66	91	-25	73		
Central Coast Coasties	52	19	12	21	64	74	-10	69		
Sydney United	56	18	13	25	79	76	3	67		
Sutherland Shire Sharks	52	19	8	25	56	93	-37	65		
Southern Branch YL	59	11	10	38	54	138	-84	43		

Manly Warringah	56	10	8	38	44	114	-70	38		
St George	52	8	8	36	50	118	-68	32		

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Nepean Assoc	14	12	2	0	54	9	45	38		
Newcastle United	14	9	4	1	39	7	32	31		
Macarthur Rams	14	10	0	4	39	22	17	30		
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	14	8	3	3	37	20	17	27		
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	8	2	4	27	22	5	26		
Fairfield Bulls	14	7	1	6	36	33	3	22		
Mingara Lakers	13	7	1	5	13	21	-8	22		
Bankstown City Cubs	14	4	4	6	11	26	-15	16		
Hajduk Wanderers	14	3	4	7	18	31	-13	13		
Blacktown Assoc	14	4	1	9	12	27	-15	13		
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	13	3	3	7	9	18	-9	12		
AC United	14	2	3	9	16	34	-18	9		
Canterbury M'ville	13	2	3	8	14	36	-22	9		
Hills United	13	0	3	10	4	23	-19	3		

GRADE 14										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Macarthur Rams	14	12	1	1	42	6	36	37		
Newcastle United	14	10	3	1	38	11	27	33		
AC United	14	8	5	1	34	13	21	29		
Blacktown Assoc	14	8	3	3	32	15	17	27		
Nepean Assoc	14	7	2	5	22	19	3	23		
Hajduk Wanderers	14	7	1	6	23	22	1	22		
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	14	5	4	5	21	18	3	20		
Fairfield Bulls	14	5	3	6	18	25	-7	18		
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	5	2	7	26	35	-9	17		
Bankstown City Cubs	14	4	3	7	18	25	-7	15		
Hills United	13	3	1	9	15	28	-13	10		
Mingara Lakers	13	2	4	7	6	20	-14	10		
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	13	2	1	10	11	33	-22	7		
Canterbury M'ville	13	0	2	11	3	39	-36	2		

GRADE 15										
P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts			
Bankstown City Cubs	14	13	1	0	43	5	38	40		
Newcastle United	14	9	3	2	42	12	30	30		
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	13	7	3	3	26	13	13	24		
Hills United	13	7	2	4	27	18	9	23		
AC United	14	6	3	5	27	24	3	21		
Fairfield Bulls	14	6	3	5	24	28	-4	21		
Blacktown Assoc	14	5	4	5	20	16	4	20		
Nepean Assoc	14	3	6	5	18	24	-6	15		
Mingara Lakers	13	4	3	6	20	28	-8	15		
Canterbury M'ville	13	4	3	6	13	25	-12	15		
Hajduk Wanderers	14	2	8	4	17	25	-8	14		
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	14	2	4	8	18	34	-16	10		
Macarthur Rams	14	2	3	9	15	28	-13	9		
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	14	1	3	10	5	35	-30	6		



GRADE 17										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P		
Newcastle United	14	12	1	1	59	16	43	37		
Hills United	13	11	1	1	32	6	26	34		
AC United	14	9	3	2	32	14	18	30		
Mingara Lakers	13	9	2	2	32	13	19	29		
Bankstown City Cubs	14	8	2	4	39	24	15	26		
Fairfield Bulls	14	7	2	5	31	30	1	23		
Hajduk Wanderers	14	6	3	5	31	28	3	21		
Canterbury M'ville	13	4	4	5	17	24	-7	16		
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	13	4	1	8	19	31	-12	13		
Macarthur Rams	14	3	3	8	27	44	-17	13		
Bonnynigg White Eagles	14	2	3	9	21	35	-14	10		



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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

For so long at grass roots level, we have received little or no information on the running of our National body.

Unfortunately it has taken dire events, which almost claimed the scalp of Soccer Australia, to open itself up for scrutiny to the members.

Over the last couple of months we have seen considerable changes to the management and a true business plan and financial statements have been circulated to stakeholders.

Although Soccer Australia has some bridges to build to regain its grass roots members' trust, I can say from a business point of view, steps have now been taken to manage Soccer Australia effectively.

A detailed business plan will be circulated to members shortly, showing the direction Soccer Australia is taking and how it intends to get there.

Leading up to this World Cup, I am starting to feel very excited, although if Australia was there I could imagine the whole country being behind this event.

event.

Australia has 4 years to prepare and qualify for Germany and it's the responsibility of Soccer Australia to harness the support of the media, the professional players and all players Australia wide right down to our Under 6's, because it's only with this full support that Australia will have a chance of succeeding in its quest for the World Cup.

CLUB OF THE WEEK

LIVERPOOL RANGERS SOCCER CLUB

Liverpool Rangers Soccer Club was founded in 1963 and first took part in Southern District Association competitions in 1964.

The club originally played at the army ground, Yulong Oval, Moorebank, for two years before moving to a temporary ground at Woodward Park, Liverpool. One year later, it finally arrived at its present home, Ireland Park, Liverpool, where the complex now houses three full fields and two mini-fields.

The park was set up by Liverpool City Council by filling the area with "feathers" from Ingham's chook farm and "coffee beans" from Maxwell House — the two companies being original employers of many people from the area.

The club house at Ireland Park was an old school building annex purchased at auction and since extended to provide a small but comfortable

canteen and meeting room.

Liverpool Rangers, Southern Districts Association's largest club, is hosting the New South Wales Combined High School Boys State Soccer Championship, this week from Tuesday 4th June to Thursday 6th June.

Rangers hosted this popular competition last year and teams were so happy with the venue that they voted to return.

Rangers is proud of its reputation as a friendly and hospitable club that's concerned for the well being of its players as well as the development of their soccer skills. And it's always keen to contribute to the local (and wider) community.

Rangers, last year with 650 players, coaches and managers, and 45 teams, male and female, was easily the largest club within the Southern Districts Association.

In 2002 the club broke its



"Liverpool Rangers' Judy Hughes looks on as Chris Webb registers for the 2002 Southern Districts Season. Chris 12, is about to start his ninth season. Only 21 to go to equal the record of club hero Kenny Moore."

own membership record.

Rangers has long supported women's and girl's soccer, with the All Age Ladies making it to the grand final for nine out of the last ten seasons with the All Age Ladies and the Under 14 Girls making it to the grand final in 2001.

The "friendly club" has seen many youngsters grow towards adulthood, with many earlier players still playing and coaching.

Some players have gone on to greater things, the most recent being, Christian Care, playing for Marconi Stallions, and Buddy Farah, (who originally came from

Fairfield Pats) last season playing for national champions Wollongong Wolves.

Among those who have stuck around, two are certainly notable. Graham Ferns, last year the club secretary and for several years president, is in his 29th season as a player and has served as a coach with Rangers for more than ten years. And Ken Moore last year was recognised for serving 30 seasons as a player (as well as putting in more than ten years as a coach and committee member).

In addition to hosting the combined high schools competition and a recent regional

primary schools competition, the Rangers complex is used by many important soccer bodies for special events.

These include the Southern Districts Association and the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation for State Cup and Champion of Champions.

Club Registrar for the last 14 seasons, Ron Hughes, says Liverpool Rangers has made many friends over the years, with very few enemies, and this is only fitting for such a significant contributor to sporting and community service in the City of Liverpool.

ASSOCIATION SEMINAR

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation held its first Association Seminar last Friday with seven Associations and the NSW Soccer Referee's represented. Delegates from Ku-Ring-Gai Association, Central Coast Association, Manly Warringah Association, Gladesville-Hornsby Association, Nepean Association, Bankstown Association and Blacktown Association spent the day at the head office of the NSWASF at Glenwood.

Guest speakers, Barry Brooks from Concord Insurance, and NSWASF General Manager, Michael Quarmby, offered advice on Insurance and Risk Management and new Amateur's Accountant, Joe Denina, covered the importance of Financial Responsibilities of Clubs.

Other seminar topics included; Marketing and Website, On-Line Registration, Women's Soccer Development, Merchandising, Competitions and Child Protection, which is of major importance to the NSWASF and its Associations.

General Manager Michael Quarmby was very pleased with the first Association Seminar and will now focus on the agenda for the second seminar planned for the end of the year.

NEW NSWASF ACCOUNTANT

A big welcome to Joe Denina, the new Financial Accountant for the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation.

Joe will primarily be responsible for NSWASF Financials, reporting to the General Manager and Board of Directors. Marilyn Langer will continue in her role as Accounts Assistant.

Joe not only brings on board extensive Accounting experience as he joins the Amateurs team, but he also shares the passion of the game being a player himself.

JUNIOR LEAGUE FIXTURES

There are no Junior League fixtures set down for the June Long Weekend.

Next Round

Round 12

16 June 2002

NSWASF Competition Information visit
www.nswasf.com.au



2002 NSW PREMIER LEAGUE GOLD MEDAL DINNER

ABSW



U/19 Player Of The Year — Phillip Badolato.



Gold Medal winner Daniel Macor.

2001-2002



Goalkeeper Of The Year — Jason Holmes.



Federation Director Mr Clarke presents Parramatta President Vince Balzan and captain Jason Holmes with the impressive Premiership Trophy.



Former NSWSF President Peter Gray with the Referee Of The Year, Nick Asargiotis.

AWARD WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- Premier League Gold Medal Winner: Daniel Macor (Belconnen Blue Devils)
- Premier League Under 19's Player of the Year: Phillip Badolato (Fairfield Bulls)
- Premier League Club Fair Play Award: Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic
- Premier League Club Championship Award: Parra. Eagles
- Premier League Media Services Award: Carlos Furtado
- Premier League Golden Boot Award: Jim Aschner (Bonnyrigg White Eagles)
- Premier League Goalkeeper of the Year Award: Jason Holmes (Parramatta Eagles)
- Premier League U/19's Premiership Runners Up: Leichhardt Tigers
- Premier League Premiers: Central Coast Coasties
- Premier League First Grade Pr'ship Runners Up: Bonnyrigg White Eagles
- Premier League First Grade Premiers: Parramatta Eagles
- Premier League Referee of the Year: Nick Asargiotis
- Premier League Coach of the Year: Tam Finlayson (Parramatta Eagles)

CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

- Bankstown City Lions: Todor Nikolovski
- Belconnen Blue Devils: Glenda Jackson-Jones
- Blacktown City Demons: Jim Greenall
- Bonnyrigg White Eagles: Michael Kordek
- Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic: Laki Konistis
- Central Coast Coasties: Suzanne Isaac-Cole
- Fairfield Bulls: Johnson Mirza
- Leichhardt Tigers: Tony Raciti
- Parramatta Eagles: Charlie Galea
- Penrith Panthers: Tony Rasmussen
- St George Saints: Manny Spanoudakis
- Sutherland Sharks: Richard May



Central Coast's U/19 captain Mark Falzon receives the U/19 Premiership Trophy from Messrs Clarke and Bradley.



Parramatta Eagles — Premier League double winners.



Jimmy Aschner — Golden Boot Winner.



GROUP F

BY STUART JONES



ARGENTINA PROVE TO CLASSY FOR THE NIGERIANS

ARGENTINA
NIGERIA

1
0

IBARAKI



Bartholomew Ogbeche of Nigeria tries to tackle Argentina's Kily Gonzalez.

Argentina picked up its first expected victory over Nigeria on Sunday thanks to the head of Gabriel Batistuta. It was a match where the South American team had much of the running yet right down to the final whistle there were nervous moments for the Argentines.

The game started well enough for Argentina with Nigeria's defence responding by showing signs of nervousness. Those opening twenty minutes saw Veron and Ortega dictate play and Batistuta had a couple of chances that were well saved by Ike Shorunmu in the Nigerian goal. In the 25th minute Garba Lawal put a great cross in for Nigeria but Ogbeche could not get there before the Argentine keeper. On the half hour Shorunmu again showed all his skills after tapping a ball over the bar at full stretch from a powerful drive by Ortega.

Two minutes later and Argentina's best chance was mirrored at the other

end. After a mazy run by Augustine Okocha he fired the ball with great power but it was tapped over the bar by Cavallero. Yobo then saw his effort go just wide. In the 37th minute Veron put in a great corner and Batistuta put a header wide at the far post. He was very upset at missing another chance but for Nigeria it was a lesson that they did not take heed of.

In the final minutes of the half Argentina got through the stacked and unsure Nigerian defence but their shooting was proving to be inaccurate. Half time came and the game was goalless – the first time this had occurred in these finals. After half time Batistuta had another great chance at the far post after a flicked on corner but it went wide. The 49th minute saw Juan Pablo Sorin also put the ball wide after a free header from a Veron cross. A minute later Ortega was fouled on the edge of the area by Yobo but his free kick was very disappointing.

The game had opened up and through the 50th – 60th minutes there was much better passing movements from both sides although attempts on target, when they came, were often wasteful. A minute before and after the hour mark Argentina should have scored twice, the second being tipped over the bar once more by the Nigerian custodian. In the 62nd minute Sorin was challenged badly by Taribo West on the left of the edge of the area. The resultant free kick saw Veron deflect his effort off the wall for

a corner. He took that corner and Batistuta almost had to push Simeone away at the far post but it was well worth it as his head connected cleanly with the ball and it went into the back of the net.

A goal up and Veron had two long range free kicks fantastically saved by Shorunmu within minutes. It took a while for Nigeria to regain some composure but in the 76th minute they did cause anxiety in the opposition defence with their runs although the final attempts were often poor. In the 83rd minute Simeone sliced his clearance but it went well wide of his own goal. Star substitute Heman Crespo had a couple of great chances but neither were on target for the South Americans. At the other end Cavallero was looking suspect under pressure, his counterpart making save after brilliant save. Right on full time Cavallero spilled a long-range effort from Nigeria but fortunately for his team it went wide of the post.

Overall the game in Ibaraki showed that Argentina were justified in being rated equal favourites. The only questions asked of them that they did not answer well were at the back where if they were put under a lot of pressure they showed some nerves. Nigeria were disappointing and not as flamboyant as many expect although they fought hard and made life difficult for their opponents. They almost survived and will now look to the match against Sweden to get their first points of the finals.

ENGLAND AND SWEDEN SETTLE FOR THE DRAW

ENGLAND
SWEDEN

1
1

SAITAMA

A not unexpected 1-1 draw was played out between England and Sweden in a match that failed to reach any great heights. Sol Campbell's early goal was nullified by Niclas Alexandersson just before the hour mark.

The match started with Sweden under pressure although England failed to turn this into any decent shots. At the other end Henrik Larsson was making sure that the English defence were on their toes. By the 20th minute England had had 60% of the possession yet had nothing to show for it in terms of shots on target.

In the 23rd minute Ashley Cole and Emile Heskey exchanged passes before Cole tried to chip over the defence from the byline only for the Swedish defence to cut out the pass and concede a corner. Whilst the defence was still being organized David Beckham took the corner from the left and it met the head of an advancing Sol Campbell.

Magnus Hedman had come for the ball but Campbell got to it first and he also outleaped the defenders to get to the

cross and his header powered into the back of the net.

England were 1-0 up and looked confident. Henrik Larsson tried a 30 metre free kick but fired it wide. More and more Larsson found himself up front by himself.

The English could not find a way through the defence though and David Beckham's crosses were now failing to find teammates.

Emile Heskey used his strength to disrupt the solid Swedish defence but this work was not leading to shots on target either. Marcus Allback took a first time shot in the 39th minute but David Seaman saved well low down.

Allback also missed with another effort just before half time. The first half had not seen too much action on the goal as the sides seemed to negate each others strengths. However England had taken virtually the only chance they had been granted and that was the difference at the interval.

After the interval Sweden took the game much more to the English. Larsson saw his header from a free kick

go wide and in the 51st minute Allback's penalty claim, after he fell in the area under the challenge of Rio Ferdinand, was denied by the referee.

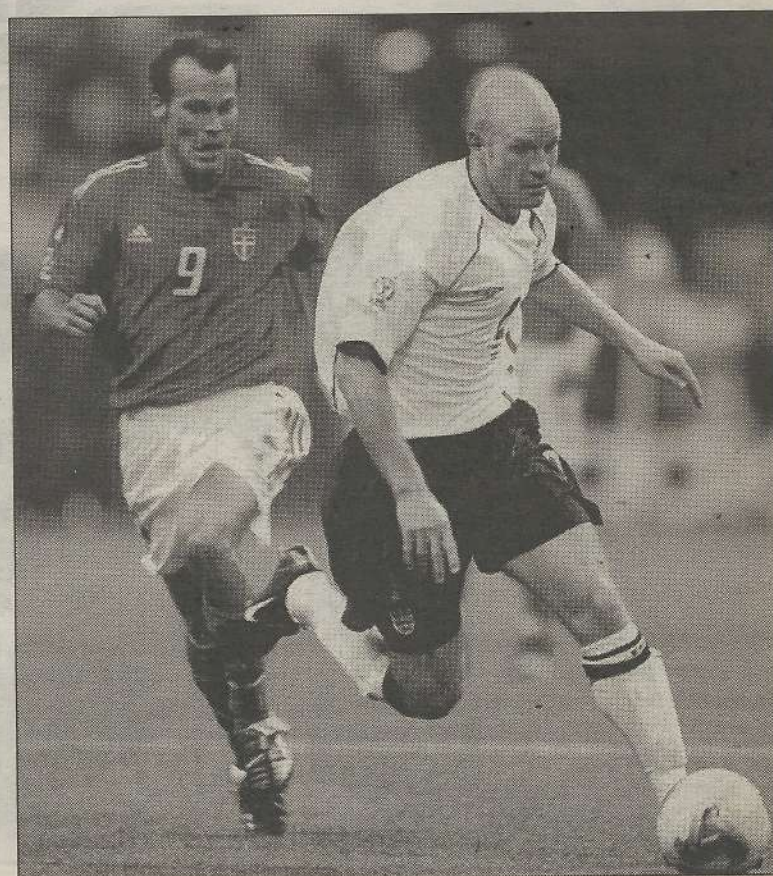
Just before the hour Danny Mills tried to turn a ball with his chest back to David Seaman when he realized it was too short. He tried to clear it leaving Seaman in no mans land. The ball landed at the feet of Niclas Alexandersson (whose club side is Everton in England) and he controlled it and fired it home. Seaman had got back into position although Rio Ferdinand blocked his view until the last moment and this may explain why he could not get to the powerful drive in time.

Minutes later Seaman kept the English in the game with two great saves, one from Tobias Linderoth and the other at the feet of Teddy Lucic. On the 60th minute Michael Owen finally got an opportunity to shoot but it went just wide of the post. A minute later it was Freddie Ljunberg who could have put the Swedes in front but his final shot was poor. Jakobsson made English hearts flutter near the end but despite Swedish pressure they really had few shots on target. In the end England were

holding on for a draw. Each side had a final opportunity, Emile Heskey should have done better with his header whilst Henrik Larsson found himself free on the left but fired across the face of goal.

In the end 1-1 seemed fair and each side scored in the half they had dominated. For England Heskey played well as did Vassell up front but they could not turn their hard work into opportunities. Sweden played well as a unit and nulli-

fied the threat of Michael Owen. It was quite obvious neither team wanted to lose this match. England played confidently in spells and apart from the schoolboy error of Danny Mills their goal was under no huge threat. Sweden too did not seem to have too many concerns at the back. Both teams will be looking to do more in terms of shots in their next two matches.



Danny Mills looks to get clear of Fredrik Ljunberg.

WORLD CUP STATS

GROUP A

FRANCE 0 **SENEGAL** 1 **URUGUAY** 1 **DENMARK** 1
Papa Bouba Diop (29) *Dario Rodriguez (47)* *Jon Dahl Tomasson (45)*
Jon Dahl Tomasson (84)

Substitutions:

Djorkaeff - out, Dugarry - in (59)
 Wiltord - out, Cisse - in (80)

Cards

JEmmanuel Petit (45)
 Aliou Cisse (50)

Teams:

16. Fabien Barthez (G)
 8. Marcel Desailly (D)
 18. Frank Leboeuf (D)
 3. Bixente Lizarazu (D)
 15. Lilian Thuram (D)
 6. Youri Djorkaeff (M)
 17. Emmanuel Petit (M)
 4. Patrick Vieira (M)
 9. Djibril Cisse (F)
 21. Christophe Dugarry (F)
 12. Thierry Henry (F)
 20. David Trezeguet (F)
 11. Sylvain Wiltord (F)

1. Tony Sylva (G)
 6. Aliou Cisse (D)
 17. Ferdinand Coly (D)
 2. Omar Daf (D)
 13. Lamine Diatta (D)
 4. Papa Malick Diop (D)
 15. Salif Alassane Diao (M)
 19. Papa Bouba Diop (M)
 10. Khalilou Fadiga (M)
 14. Moussa N'Diaye (M)
 11. El Hadji Diouf (F)

Substitutions:

Recoba - out, Regueiro - in (80)
 Rodriguez - out, Magallanes - in (87)
 Abreu - out, Morales - in (88)
 Heintze - out, Jensen - in (57)
 Gronkjaer - out, Jorgensen - in (70)
 Sand - out, Poulsen - in (89)

Cards

Gustavo Mendez (25)
 Heintze (35)
 Martin Laursen (53)

Teams:

1. Hector Fabian Carini (G)
 2. Gustavo Mendez (D)
 4. Paolo Montero (D)
 6. Dario Rodriguez (D)
 14. Gonzalo Sorondo (D)
 5. Pablo Garcia (M)
 7. Gianni Guigou (M)
 13. Sebastian Abreu (F)
 20. Alvaro Recoba (F)
 9. Dario Silva (F)
 8. Gustavo Varela (F)

1. Thomas Sorensen (G)
 5. Jan Heintze (D)
 6. Thomas Helveg (D)
 3. Rene Henriksen (D)
 4. Martin Laursen (D)
 7. Thomas Gravesen (M)
 2. Stig Tofting (M)
 8. Jesper Gronkjaer (F)
 19. Dennis Rommedahl (F)
 11. Ebbe Sand (F)
 9. Jon Dahl Tomasson (F)

GROUP B

PARAGUAY 2 **SOUTH AFRICA** 2 **SPAIN** 3 **SLOVENIA** 1
Roque Santa Cruz (39) *Estanislao Struway (63)OG* *Raúl González (44)* *Segastjan Cimirotic (82)*
Francisco Arce (55) *Quinton Fortune (90)* *Juan Carlos Valerón (74)* *Fernando Hierro (88)*

Substitutions:

Alvarenga - out, Gavilán - in (66)
 Campos - out, Morinigo - in (72)
 Struway - out, Franco - in (86)
 Issa - out, Mukansi - in (27)
 McCarthy - out, Koumantarkis - in (78)

Cards

Julio César Cáceres (35)
 Denis Ramón Caniza (65)
 Ricardo Olimpia Tavarelli (90)
 Juan Carlos Franco (90)
 Aaron Mokoena (3)
 Pierre Issa (9)
 Benedict McCarthy (38)
 Sibusiso Zuma (45)

Teams:

22. Ricardo Olimpia Tavarelli
 2. Francisco Arce (D)
 5. Celso Ayala (D)
 18. Julio César Cáceres (D)
 21. Denis Ramón Caniza (D)
 4. Carlos Gamarra (D)
 10. Roberto Miguel Acuña (M)
 8. Guido Alvarenga (M)
 11. Jorge Campos (M)
 6. Estanislao Struway (M)
 9. Roque Santa Cruz (F)

16. Andre Arendse (G)
 3. Bradley Carnell (D)
 13. Pierre Issa (D)
 4. Aaron Mokoena (D)
 2. Cyril Nzama (D)
 19. Lucas Radebe (D)
 7. Quinton Fortune (M)
 12. Tebeho Mokoena (M)
 6. Ntuthuko Sibaya (M)
 15. Sibusiso Zuma (M)
 17. Benedict McCarthy (F)

Substitutions:

Tristán - out, Morientes - in (67)
 Martínez - out, Helguera - in (74)
 Garcia - out, Fernandez Romero - in (83)
 Osterreich - out, Cimirotic - in (57)
 Zahovic - out, Acimovic - in (63)
 Novak - out, Gajser - in (78)

Cards

Juan Carlos Valerón (36)
 Amir Karic (45)
 Segastjan Cimirotic (65)

Teams:

1. Iker Casillas (G)
 3. Juan Francisco Garcia (D)
 6. Fernando Hierro (D)
 20. Miguel Angel Nadal (D)
 5. Carles Puyol (D)
 8. Ruben Baraja (M)
 11. Francisco De Pedro (M)
 21. Luis Enrique Martínez (M)
 17. Juan Carlos Valerón (M)
 7. Raúl González (F)
 10. Diego Tristán (F)

1. Marko Simeunovic (G)
 5. Marinko Galic (D)
 6. Aleksander Knavs (D)
 3. Zeljko Milinovic (D)
 8. Ales Ceh (M)
 19. Amir Karic (M)
 7. Džoni Novak (M)
 11. Miran Pavlin (M)
 9. Milan Osterc (F)
 13. Mladen Rudonja (F)
 10. Zlatko Zahovic (F)

GROUP E

GERMANY 8 **SAUDI ARABIA** 0 **IRELAND** 1 **CAMEROON** 1
Miroslav Klose (20) *Miroslav Klose (25)* *Michael Ballack (40)* *Patrick Mboma (39)*
Carsten Jancker (45) *Miroslav Klose (69)* *Thomas Linke (73)* *Oliver Bierhoff (84)*
Bernd Schneider (90)

Substitutions:

Ramelow - out, Jeremies - in
 Jancker - out, Bierhoff - in (66)
 Klose - out, Neuville - in (77)
 Al Temyat - out, Aziz al-Khathran - in
 Al Owairan - out, Al Shahrani - in
 Al Yami - out, Al Dosari - in (77)

Cards

Christian Ziege (43)
 Dietmar Hamann (83)
 Mohammed Noor (90)

Teams:

1. Oliver Kahn (G)
 2. Thomas Linke (D)
 21. Christoph Metzelder (D)
 6. Christian Ziege (D)
 13. Michael Ballack (M)
 22. Torsten Frings (M)
 8. Dietmar Hamann (M)
 5. Carsten Ramelow (M)
 19. Bernd Schneider (M)
 9. Carsten Jancker (F)
 11. Miroslav Klose (F)

1. Mohammed Al Daeyea (G)
 12. Ahmed Dukhi Al Dosari (D)
 13. Hussein Sulimani (D)
 3. Raza Takar (D)
 4. Abdullah Zubromawi (D)
 16. Khumais Al Owairan (M)
 17. Abdullah Al Shahrani (M)
 18. Nawaf Al Temyat (M)
 8. Mohammed Noor (M)
 9. Sami Al Jaber (F)
 20. Al Hassan Al Yami (F)

Substitutions:

McAteer - out, Finnan - in (47)
 Mboma - out, Suffo - in (69)
 Harte - out, Reid - in (78)

Cards

Jason McAteer (30)
 Raymond Kalla Kongo (89)
 Steve Finnan (51)
 Stephen Reid (82)

Teams:

1. Shay Given (G)
 14. Gary Breen (D)
 3. Ian Harte (D)
 18. Gary Kelly (D)
 5. Steve Staunton (D)
 8. Matt Holland (M)
 11. Kevin Kilbane (M)
 12. Mark Kinsella (M)
 7. Jason McAteer (M)
 9. Damien Duff (F)
 10. Robbie Keane (F)

1. Boukar Alioum (G)
 5. Raymond Kalla Kongo (D)
 8. Geremi Njitap (D)
 4. Rigobert Song (D)
 2. Bill Tchato (D)
 3. Pierre Wome (D)
 12. Lauren Etame-Mayer (M)
 17. Marc-Vivien Foe (M)
 20. R. Salomon Olembe (M)
 9. Samuel Eto'o (F)
 10. Patrick Mboma (F)

GROUP F

ENGLAND 1 **SWEDEN** 1 **ARGENTINA** 1 **NIGERIA** 0
Sol Campbell (24) *Niclas Alexandersson (59)* *Gabriel Batistuta*

Substitutions:

Beckham - out, Dyer - in (63)
 Vassell - out, Cole - in (74)
 Svensson - out, Svensson - in (56)
 Allbäck - out, Andersson - in (81)

Cards

Sol Campbell (12)
 Marcus Allbäck (45)
 Andreas Jakobsson (73)

Teams:

1. David Seaman (G)
 6. Sol Campbell (D)
 3. Ashley Cole (D)
 5. Rio Ferdinand (D)
 2. Danny Mills (D)
 7. David Beckham (M)
 18. Owen Lee Hargreaves (M)
 8. Paul Scholes (M)
 11. Emile Heskey (F)
 10. Michael Owen (F)
 20. Darius Vassell (F)

1. Magnus Hedman (G)
 15. Andreas Jakobsson (D)
 16. Teddy Lucic (D)
 2. Olof Mellberg (D)
 4. Johan Mjallby (D)
 7. Niclas Alexandersson (M)
 6. Tobias Linderoth (M)
 9. Fredrik Ljungberg (M)
 17. Magnus Svensson (M)
 10. Marcus Allbäck (F)
 11. Henrik Larsson (F)

Substitutions:

López - out, González - in (46)
 Verón - out, Aimar - in (78)
 Batistuta - out, Crespo - in (81)
 Kanu - out, Ikedia - in (48)
 Sodie - out, Christopher - in (73)

Cards

Walter Adrián Samuel (51)
 Diego Pablo Simeone (90)
 Sodie (73)

Teams:

12. Pablo Oscar Cavallero (G)
 13. Diego Rodolfo Placente
 4. Mauricio Roberto Pochettino (D)
 6. Walter Adrián Samuel (D)
 10. Ariel Ortega (M)
 14. Diego Pablo Simeone (M)
 3. Juan Pablo Sorín (M)
 11. Juan Sebastian Verón (M)
 8. Javier Zanetti (M)
 9. Gabriel Omar Batistuta (F)
 7. Claudio Javier López (F)

1. Ike Shorunmu (G)
 3. Celestine Babayaro (D)
 5. Isaac Okoronkwo (D)
 16. Efe Sodje (D)
 6. Taribo West (D)
 2. Joseph Yobo (D)
 11. Garba Lawal (M)
 10. Jay-Jay Okocha (M)
 17. Julius Agahowa (F)
 4. Nwankwo Kanu (F)
 9. Bartholomew Ogbeche (F)



WORLD CUP NEWS



TOTTI HOPES TO LIVE UP TO ITALY EXPECTATIONS

AS Roma star Francesco Totti appeared optimistic and in high spirits at the press conference staged at the Italian national team training base.

Roma skipper failed to gel with the Italian national team back at Euro 2000, whereas at the moment the situation seems to have changed: "I believe it's tough to make up your mind about a person whom you don't know well enough.

However at the moment I think I have spent enough time with my teammates for them to realize what kind of man I am. I can seem arrogant and intractable at first sight, but I am shy, calm, and sociable.



Francesco Totti: The Italian number 10 will be out to impress in Korea/Japan.

I believe my friends appreciate it."

When asked if he considers himself to be the leader of the national team, Roma skipper stated: "Of course, I am not the team leader. The true leader of the team is Paolo Maldini. As for the fact that Trapattoni calls me the national team leader, he refers to the fact that I play a vital part in the squad. I am the playmaker."

As for the Italian national team's prospects to claim the World Cup, the Italian striker believed they possess all the necessary features to make their dreams come true: "I believe we can claim the World Cup. At least, I think our team are in good form."

Huge question mark hanging over Germany says Klinsmann

Jurgen Klinsmann played down new-look Germany's World Cup chances, saying there was a huge question mark over their campaign.

The striking star of Germany's 1990 World Cup triumph said he was not expecting a repeat victory this time around as coach Rudi Voller's squad battle a wave of injuries.

Klinsmann, who partnered Voller in attack at Italia 90, said he would be satisfied if his countrymen reached the last eight. Germany face Ireland, Cameroon and Saudi Arabia in Group E.

"The German national team is in transition," Klinsmann said at a coaching clinic for schoolchildren organised by sportswear giants

adidas. "Rudi Voller has a new team, a new generation coming up - we will only know at this tournament how good this team can be," he added.

"There is a huge question mark over Germany," added Klinsmann, saying that his pessimism was shared by millions of his countrymen.

"There is absolutely no expectation back home - the way we've been playing recently people I will be happy if we reach the quarter-finals," he said.

"The new players lack experience and this will be a major test for them. We are no longer at the level of France or Argentina, we'll have to find our own level in the next few weeks.



Jurgen Klinsmann: Former German legend optimistic about Germany's chances in the World Cup.

Japan can reach semi-finals, says Inamoto

Co-hosts Japan are good enough to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup, midfielder Junichi Inamoto has said.

The 22-year-old warned that Russia would be the biggest threat in Group H but insisted Japan could still surprise a few people during the tournament.

"Russia are probably the strongest team in the group but I think we have the ability to get to the last eight or the last four," he said.

"Our preparation has been perfect and there is a great atmosphere among the squad."

Inamoto admitted to feeling some pre-tournament nerves after watching World Cup news on television over the past week.

"Watching the TV, you feel a bit of pressure but there is a relaxed atmosphere at the camp. We are playing at home so it will be a special World Cup. We don't need any extra motivation."



Junichi Inamoto: Japanese star is hoping for a semi-final berth.

ZIDANE OUT, BECKHAM BACK FOR WORLD CUP OPENERS

French superstar Zinedine Zidane limped out of the World Cup's revolving door on Tuesday as England's inspirational midfielder David Beckham strutted back in having made a miraculous recovery from injury.

As France started to put the world's most expensive player through a medical machine in a desperate bid to get him fit for their second game, Beckham came out of one confirmed as available for England's first match against Sweden on Sunday.

The Real Madrid and Manchester United playmakers are among a host of big names paying the price for a long hard season before the World Cup campaign starts on Friday. Italian striker Filippo Inzaghi will also miss his country's first game against Ecuador. Germany has also been decimated by injuries.

Zidane, who injured a thigh muscle in France's 3-2 win over South Korea on Sunday, could miss all of France's first round matches in their defence of the World Cup, the French team doctor Jean-Marcel Ferret said.

Zidane said he is hopeful of getting back for the second Group A match against Uruguay on June 6. Doctors indicated however that there is no guarantee that Zidane will even be able to play the third

group match against Denmark on June 11.

"What is sure is that he will not play in the match against Senegal," Ferret told a press conference. "Afterwards, anything is possible between this match and, say, the second round."

His injury has cast a dark cloud over the French camp.

"The French group is obviously stronger with him. Zidane is an exceptional player and when he is in the team he always gives it life," coach Roger Lemerre said Monday. Other players in the squad admitted the injury had been a major fright.

Ferret said that after the Senegal game, Zidane's return would depend on "the healing potential of the player to the treatment he will receive."

He added: "The top players can heal faster and Zidane even more. He has no history of muscle injuries and I have high hopes."

Beckham is living proof of Ferret's statement that top players can make a spectacular return with the help of latest medical methods.

The England captain has not played for nearly seven weeks since breaking a bone in his left foot during Manchester United's Champions League quarter final with Deportivo La Coruna. At first it was thought he would miss all the World Cup.

But England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson delivered the news that all of England had been desperate to hear as Ferret gave the bad news about Zidane.

"He had a session this morning and he did everything," Eriksson said. "He took some corners and did a lot of shooting, a lot of running. We think he will be ready for Sweden, yes."

Eriksson said he was confident that Beckham would be fit to start the match, despite the long layoff.



Zinedine Zidane: French star could miss the first stage of the World Cup due to injury.

INJURY HIT BABAYARO BEATS WORLD CUP DEADLINE

Injury-hit Chelsea defender Celestine Babayaro trained with the Nigeria World Cup squad Tuesday after he arrived in Japan to beat an arrival deadline.

"Celestine has joined the team. He even trained with them today (Tuesday)," said Sani Lulu, an official with the Nigeria Football Association (NFA).

Nigeria coach Adegboye Onigbinde had given Babayaro a Monday deadline to join the team or lose his place in the World Cup squad.

The 23-year-old player, who featured at the 1998 World Cup in France, has been battling to be fit after sustaining a thigh injury which sidelined him towards the end of the English Premiership season.



Celestine Babayaro: Has joined the Nigerians just before the World Cup deadline.

MBOMBA REVEALS WORLD CUP TARGET

Patrick Mboma has warned that Cameroon are ready to spring a shock - by breaking into the elite at the World Cup.

The Parma striker, still waiting to hear from Peter Reid whether he will be offered a Premiership contract next season, believes the Indomitable Lions can reach the quarter-finals at least.

"People in Cameroon are talking about us winning the tournament," he said.

"We'll try to reach the quarter-finals because people keep telling us we are the best generation ever

produced in Cameroon.

"We are full of confidence, and I think Cameroon are about to do big things."

And Mboma revealed there is a real desire in the camp to better the country's last-eight appearance in Italy 12 years ago - when an England comeback scuppered Cameroon's hopes of a historic semi-final place.

"I remember watching that game with my mother and we cried when our second goal went in because we thought it was the door to the semi-final," he added.



Patrick Mboma: Cameroon star has stated that his country are the team to beat.



WORLD CUP NEWS



Referees will make or break World Cup warns Pele

Soccer legend Pele has warned that the success or failure of the 2002 World Cup lies in the hands of the men in black.

The Brazilian great says that the part played by referees has never been so important in a World Cup as it is this year.

"I know that, traditionally, the referee is the man the fans love to hate. He is everyone's favourite villain. He is the man who gets the blame from players during the game and from coaches after the game. But never, in my opinion, has the referee been more important," insisted Pele.

"It is crucial for the future of soccer that this first World Cup of the new century is full of



Pele: The Brazilian legend has stated that Referee's will play a vital role in this year's World Cup

great football. That means plenty of skillful soccer in midfield then great goals. In turn, that means that the cheats and the thugs must be beaten."

And Pele urged referees to show the red card and rid the World Cup of the cheats.

"The latest trick is shirt pulling. When I played defenders would sometimes almost literally tear the shirt off my back to stop me," said Pele.

"But the referee could always see that. The problem now is the 'little' pull on the shirt - just enough to hold a player back when he is about to break down an offside trap.

"The trouble is, first the referee has to see it, then he has to be brave enough to act."

WORLD CUP MOST OPEN YET SAYS BECKHAM

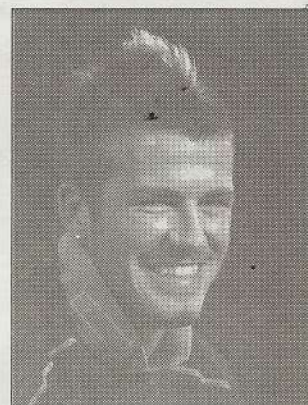
England captain David Beckham believes this year's World Cup finals is one of the most open yet and that any one of six teams are capable of going all the way in the 32-team tournament.

Asked who would win the World Cup aside from England, Beckham replied: "There are many teams who could win the competition. The Italians, the Spanish, the Brazilians, the French ... and the Argentinians of course."

But despite paying tribute to some classy contenders, Beckham said he was confident that England could make a big impression on the world stage.

"We're quietly confident," he said. "This is where the serious stuff starts. We've looked sharp in training and we're ready to go.

"We've got a great set of players and a very young squad and there's no reason why we can't do well."



David Beckham: England Captain believes his squad has what it takes to do well in the World Cup.

Accused Senegalese to be allowed to stay for World Cup

Accused Senegalese to be allowed to stay for World Cup Senegalese soccer star Khalilou Fadiga is to be allowed to stay in South Korea to play in the World Cup opening match despite being accused of stealing a necklace, officials said Wednesday.

Fadiga is expected to be named in the Senegal team to play Group A rivals France in Seoul on Friday after the World Cup opening ceremony.

The 27-year-old French-based midfielder faces criminal charges after being accused of stealing a gold necklace from a jewelry store in the southern city of Daegu.

"We are handling the case in the manner that will not affect the World Cup games so that he and his team can carry on playing," a Daegu police department

spokesman told AFP.

Fadiga was released after questioning after the store owner reported the theft of a necklace worth 300,000 won (240 dollars).

One Daegu police investigator said the case, which has yet to be sent to prosecutors, could be speedily dealt with by local prosecutors.

Police said Fadiga had admitted the offence which was videotaped by a camera in the store on Sunday.

The stolen necklace has been returned to the shop, police said.

The Senegalese team has not yet commented on the case against Fadiga, who plays with Auxerre in the French league and could have played for Belgium and France.

He was born in Paris and has Belgian nationality through marriage. Senegal were the first to ask him to play for the national side.



Khalilou Fadiga: Senegal midfielder faces criminal charges after being accused of stealing a gold necklace in Japan.

France will pull together to fill Zidane gap says Lemerre

French coach Roger Lemerre said that he was confident his players would pull together to fill the gap left by the injury of Zinedine Zidane when the World Cup holders open the tournament against Senegal here on Friday.

Lemerre said France had prepared well for the defence of their title.

"We have done everything possible to prepare. Since the

start of May we have worked to be at our optimum level," he told journalists at the French team's training base on the outskirts of the South Korean capital.

"The 11 players chosen will be more attentive to their task and more concentrated on it because they know that the French team could be in difficulty without Zidane at some time or another."



Roger Lemerre: The French coach has a strong belief that his 11 players selected will fulfill Zidane's absence.

FIGO EARLY RETIREMENT?

Portuguese World Cup star Luis Figo, who has been plagued by a recent ankle injury has stated that he was considering quitting football shortly.

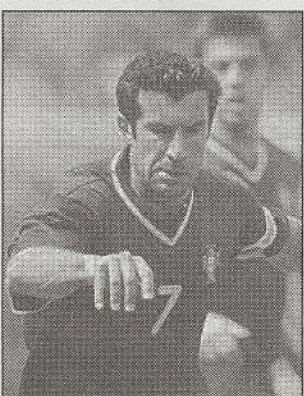
"I don't dread retirement and I am ready to become more available to my family and friends, the people I care about," the Real Madrid midfielder told the sports daily Record here.

"I will go further: I will leave football earlier than people think," said the 29-year-old Figo.

The FIFA World Player of the Year has suffered from a recurring ankle injury for the past three months which he blamed

on having to play so many matches every season.

But Portugal coach Antonio Oliveira has insisted that Figo, a



Luis Figo: Retirement beckons for the Portuguese Star.

vital cog in the Portuguese machinery, will be 100 percent fit when his team launch their World Cup campaign on June 5 against the United States.

Figo pleased fans and played for 15 minutes in his team's 2-0 win over China Saturday, providing a major boost to Portugal's World Cup hopes.

But he does not believe he is indispensable.

"A single player does not determine the outcome of the World Cup," said Figo.

"The winner of a competition like this is always a collective, the one that best supports the physical and emotional wear and tear will be the victor".

Petit backs Brigitte Bardot in condemning Korean dog eating

World Cup footballer Emmanuel Petit joined forces with French actress and animal welfare activist Brigitte Bardot in condemning the practice of eating dog meat in South Korea.

The Chelsea midfielder, who will join France as they launch their World Cup defence in Seoul Friday, was one of the 20,000 signatures on the petition handed in to the Korean Embassy in Paris by the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

Leading French personalities including actors Jean-Paul Belmondo, Nathalie Baye and Sophie Marceau also signed the petition against the practice in World Cup co-hosts South Korea.

A statement from the Foundation said: "We protest against the situation of dogs and cats in Korea where they are piled up in cages to be sold. Then they are beaten to death to make their own flesh tender.

"These terrible practises are unacceptable and unjustified, so we are

asking Korean authorities to stop these cruel practices and to close definitely those markets.

"As these practises continue we commit ourselves not to buy Korean products anymore."



Emmanuel Petit: French star has joined forces with French actress Brigitte Bardot in condemning the practice of eating dog meat in South Korea

Koreans' fondness for dog meat was put under the spotlight last year following a call from football's

world governing body FIFA for the authorities to crack down on cruel slaughtering practices.

Although the Seoul government has already banned the production and sale of dog meat for human consumption, the practice remains widespread and government efforts have instead been concentrated on encouraging more humane slaughtering.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter had sent a letter to South Korea's soccer supremo Chung Mong-Joon calling for "immediate and decisive measures" against cruelty in slaughtering dogs ahead of the World Cup finals. But Chung said it should not be FIFA's concern.

He stressed the issue was taken up when Seoul hosted the 1988 Olympic Games, but the International Olympic Committee did not take any action.

Ahead of the 1988 Games, South Korea forced many dog meat eateries to shut down or shift to other dishes.



JAPAN / SOUTH KOREA WORLD CUP 2002 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



GROUP A – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
May 31	France 0	v Senegal 1
Jun 01	Uruguay 1	v Denmark 2
Jun 06	France	v Uruguay
Jun 06	Denmark	v Senegal
Jun 11	Denmark	v France
Jun 11	Senegal	v Uruguay

GROUP B – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 02	Paraguay 2	v Sth Africa 2
Jun 02	Spain 3	v Slovenia 1
Jun 07	Spain	v Paraguay
Jun 08	Sth Africa	v Slovenia
Jun 12	Sth Africa	v Spain
Jun 11	Slovenia	v Paraguay

GROUP C – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 03	Brazil	v Turkey
Jun 04	China	v Costa Rica
Jun 08	Brazil	v China
Jun 08	Costa Rica	v Turkey
Jun 12	Costa Rica	v Brazil
Jun 11	Turkey	v China

GROUP D – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 04	Sth Korea	v Poland
Jun 05	USA	v Portugal
Jun 10	Sth Korea	v USA
Jun 10	Portugal	v Poland
Jun 14	Portugal	v Sth Korea
Jun 14	Poland	v USA

GROUP E – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 01	Ireland 1	v Cameroon 1
Jun 01	Germany 8	v S Arabia 0
Jun 05	Germany	v Ireland
Jun 06	Cameroon	v S Arabia
Jun 11	Cameroon	v Germany
Jun 11	S Arabia	v Ireland

GROUP F – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 02	England 1	v Sweden 1
Jun 02	Argentina 1	v Nigeria 0
Jun 07	Sweden	v Nigeria
Jun 07	Argentina	v England
Jun 12	Sweden ...	v Argentina
Jun 12	Nigeria	v England

GROUP G – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 03	Croatia	v Mexico
Jun 03	Italy	v Ecuador
Jun 08	Italy	v Croatia
Jun 09	Mexico	v Ecuador
Jun 13	Mexico	v Italy
Jun 13	Ecuador	v Croatia

GROUP H – TIMETABLE

DATE	TEAM	TEAM
Jun 04	Japan	v Belgium
Jun 05	Russia	v Tunisia
Jun 09	Japan	v Russia
Jun 10	Tunisia	v Belgium
Jun 14	Tunisia	v Japan
Jun 14	Belgium	v Russia

PLACINGS - A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 DENMARK	1	0	0	2	1	3
2 SENEGAL	1	0	0	1	0	3
3 FRANCE	0	0	1	0	1	0
4 URUGUAY	0	0	1	1	2	0

PLACINGS - B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Spain	1	0	0	3	1	3
2 PARAGUAY	0	1	0	2	2	1
3 South Africa	0	1	0	2	2	1
4 SLOVENIA	0	0	1	1	3	0

PLACINGS - C

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1						
2						
3						
4						

PLACINGS - D

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 GERMANY	1	0	0	8	0	3
2 CAMEROON	0	1	0	1	1	1
3 Rep. Ireland	0	1	0	1	1	1
4 Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	0	8	0

PLACINGS - E

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1						
2						
3						
4						

PLACINGS - F

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 ARGENTINA	1	0	0	1	0	3
2 ENGLAND	0	1	0	1	1	1
3 SWEDEN	0	1	0	1	1	1
4 NIGERIA	0	0	1	0	1	0

PLACINGS - G

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1						
2						
3						
4						

PLACINGS - H

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1						
2						
3						
4						

